

# **ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)**

## **MINUTES May 17, 2021**

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Armour Office and virtually on May 17, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Tim Bryson, Township of Joly, Chair  
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour  
Anthony Rizzo, AHCC Representative  
Barb Belrose, Village of Sundridge  
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry  
Melanie Alkins, MENDM  
Ron Begin, FedNor  
Kelly Elik, Township of Strong  
Delynne Patterson, Township of Ryerson  
John Wilson, Village of Burk's Falls  
Peter McIsaac, Municipality of Powassan  
Brenda Scott, Village of South River  
Tim Brunton, Municipality of Magnetawan

Regrets: Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development  
Ciara Stead, Communication & Marketing Officer  
Jeannette Smith, EDC Administrative Assistant  
John Theriault, Township of Armour

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Monday, April 19, 2021 meeting were adopted, as circulated.

### **Director of Economic Development (DED) Report**

The ACED Board reviewed the May report from the Director of Economic Development.

The Director covered the following items from the report;

1. An update on core activity tracking, which lists what the department has done over the past month. These included ACED website updates, social media activities, communications and business assistance.
2. The report updated different projects, including the BR&E by industry project, Digital Main Street, business support events, partnerships with other organizations, community development, the healthy community initiative, regional broadband development, the regional brand strategy development project, the agricultural strategy implementation, the Great Taste of Ontario Road Trip project and the participation of ACED in Almaguin's health initiatives.
3. A detailed update was given on the Staycation Almaguin project and the support it is receiving, whether financial or in kind. Staff reported on the results to date including participation during and after events. The Board was advised that any ideas for this program would be considered. Questions were asked and answered.
4. ACED will be participating in the transportation development program needs assessment survey project. The survey will be live in May and all partners were asked to circulate the survey and help getting as many responses as possible. The Board passed a resolution of support.
5. Since ACED will be receiving a second year of funding for the intern position, the intern has been registered for the year two of the EDAC program, which is required by the program.
6. The Board was advised that OMAFRA has approved a \$138,250 grant for the Almaguin Brand Implementation Project. Staff has forwarded the approval to FedNor for their consideration as they review the current Northern Ontario Development Program application which, if approved, will also support the project.

## **Updates**

### **FEDNOR**

FedNor is waiting for details from the last federal budget, but at this time, the budget included monies for businesses during COVID-19, black apprenticeships, community infrastructure development, tourism, regional economic growth through innovation and airports. FedNor is also becoming a stand-alone agency. This will increase the cost of administration, but will hopefully help find efficiencies and shorten the time it takes to approve grant applications.

### **NOHFC**

NOHFC is partnering with FedNor on airport funding and development. Their community enhancement program will help with infrastructure regeneration.

## **Other Business**

The Board was advised that Lakeland Holding is applying for a grant which would help in the installation of charging stations throughout Muskoka and Parry Sound. The program pays for 50% of the cost of the purchase and installation of the charging stations.

Lakeland Holding is looking for help from municipalities to find locations to install the charging stations.

### **Resolutions**

1. 2021-016 – Moved by Anthony Rizzo; Seconded by Barb Belrose;  
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of April 19, 2021, as circulated. Carried
  
2. 2021-0017 – Moved by Delynne Patterson; Seconded by John Wilson;  
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board recommends that all Almaguin municipalities and other interested organizations support the delivery and promotion of the Parry Sound District Transportation Survey. Furthermore, the Board recommends that municipalities connect with ACED staff to support the delivery and collection of the surveys. Carried

### **Adjournment**

3. 2020-18 – Moved by Kelly Elik;  
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the May 17, 2021 ACED meeting at 7:06 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be June 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. If this changes, members will be advised.