



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**Minutes**

**Monday, June 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Municipal Office, Chantry**

Members Present: Councillor Linda Carr, Ken Davies, Dudley Hill, Councillor Deborah Anne Hutchings, Councillor Marcia Maxwell, Councillor Paula Banks, Councillor Sue Dunfield

Members Absent: Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Councillor Ron Pollard

Staff Present: Shellee Fournier, CAO, Marie White, Economic Development and Cultural Heritage Coordinator

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Regrets from Mayor Arie Hoogenboom and Councillor Ron Pollard.

**ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

The Chair called for any additions or amendments to the agenda. None were heard.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION # ECD 2025-27**

Moved by Councillor Carr  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchings

Be it resolved that the Economic Development Committee adopt the Agenda as presented.

Carried

## **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Chair Maxwell asked if anyone had a pecuniary interest and none were declared.

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Rideau Lakes Business Listing: Marie White (For Information)**

It was noted that a new Handyman service has opened in Newboro, formerly the Village Corner Cafe.

### **Village Renewal Projects: Marie White (For Discussion)**

The four options outlined in staff report ECD 2025-06 regarding Village Renewal Projects were discussed. Option 4 was selected.

## **RECOMMENDATION # ECD 2025-28**

Moved by Councillor Paula Banks

Seconded by Councillor Sue Dunfield

Be it resolved that the Economic Development Committee recommends to Council to move forward with Option #4 (First Impressions Community Exchange Program) for consideration as part of the 2026 Budget Process.

Carried

### **Publications - Rideau Lakes Experience Guide "Heritage Spaces and Picnic Places" (For Information)**

The revised guide content was formatted and circulated as part of the agenda package. It went to press on May 21. Delivery of 3,000 copies are expected in mid- June for distribution.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 5, 2025 Economic Development Committee Meeting were distributed to the Committee as part of the agenda package. Chair Maxwell asked for any errors, omissions or questions.

## **RECOMMENDATION # ECD 2025-29**

Moved by Ken Davies

Seconded by Dudley Hill

Be it resolved that this Committee approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting minutes of May 5, 2025 as presented.

Carried

**ACTION LISTING: Marie White, Economic Development and Cultural Heritage Coordinator (For Information)**

Staff provided an update on Economic Development Action items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee Roundtable**

Public Representative Ken Davies:

- Announcements about Small Halls Festival - communicate to businesses that events are happening
- Morton is hosting an all Candidates Meeting for the Bi- Election on Friday, June 13
- Attended the Seeley's Bay Fire Station opening
- Participated in the Trade Impact Communities Programming Survey from the County - will the results be shared
- George Morton Park Sign installed

Councillor Dunfield

- Claire Jacobs Art Gallery property in Portland is for sale

Councillor Paula Banks

- Big Rideau Boat Rentals is no longer in business
- Portland Family Restaurant re-opened after renovations

Public Representative Dudley Hill:

- Attracting large corporations to the area can have unintended consequences, impacting the smaller service providers

**CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION**

**Letter from Newboro and Area Heritage Society (For Discussion)**

The Newboro and Area Heritage Society is interested in advancing the Newboro Cut proposal (by Dudley Hill) that was previously circulated to this committee and a special meeting with Parks Canada took place in February to discuss next steps. Parks Canada staff indicated that they are open to proposals and that they require community support and funding to move ahead. This letter will also go to MHAC regarding the heritage interpretation.

- A canal-side walking path, linking waterfront docking areas to Main Street businesses;
- Footbridge improvements that honour our heritage while enabling greater pedestrian access;

- Restoration of the Sappers and Miners encampment as a living history experience;
- Public-private partnerships that create tourism infrastructure while maintaining public access and environmental sensitivity.

A letter of support from the Township may be provided.

### **RECOMMENDATION # ECD 2025-30**

Moved by Dudley Hill

Seconded by Councillor Carr

Be it resolved that the Economic Development Committee recommends to Council that the Township of Rideau Lakes support in principle the proposal by the Newboro and Area Heritage Society to "Advancing Newboro's Canalfront Potential - A Vision Rooted in Heritage and Opportunity" that outlines the following:

- A canal-side walking path, linking waterfront docking areas to Main Street businesses;
- Footbridge improvements that honour our heritage while enabling greater pedestrian access;
- Restoration of the Sappers and Miners encampment as a living history experience;
- Public-private partnerships that create tourism infrastructure while maintaining public access and environmental sensitivity.

and FURTHER that Correspondence Item 10.1 be provided to the Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and the Royal Sappers and Miners Cemetery Committee.

Carried

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Economic Development Committee adjourned meeting at 11:26 a.m.

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Marcia Maxwell, Chair

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Marie White, Secretary