



Rideau Lakes

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

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Municipal Office, Chantry**

Members Present: Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Councillor Linda Carr, Ken Davies, Dudley Hill, Councillor Deborah Anne Hutchings, Councillor Marcia Maxwell

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Councillor Linda Carr will join us remotely.

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION # 40-2024

Moved by Mayor Hoogenboom
Seconded by Ken Davies

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

An updated Rideau Lakes Business Listing was included in the agenda package. There was no discussion.

Lombardy Village Visioning - Verbal Update (For Information): Marie White

The Steering Committee met on July 11 to discuss the timeline and communication strategy. It was decided that a mail drop using Canada Post to 2,448 homes in South Elmsley Ward would be scheduled for July 22, 2024, and that 1,000 Business Cards would be printed for distribution at the Lombardy Fair.

All members of the committee are invited to attend the visioning sessions on August 15 (virtual) and on August 24 (in-person). Detailed information was included in the Agenda package.

MINUTES

Minutes of the July 2, 2024 Economic Development Committee Meeting were distributed to the Committee. Chair Maxwell asked for any errors, omissions or questions.

RECOMMENDATION # 41-2024

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Dudley Hill

Be it resolved that this Committee approve the Economic Development Committee Meeting minutes of July 2, 2024 as presented.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Location of Municipal Offices (For Discussion)

Members of the committee recognized that there has been much discussion and debate on this issue in the community, and recently a flyer was circulated by the Rideau Lakes Grassroots Group. A Special Meeting will be held on August 6 at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Several members shared that multiple options should be reviewed, and that cost be a consideration as well as location. Further that the economic benefit of locating the offices in a village, and the service benefit to residents be considered.

In terms of location, the municipally owned property on Harry Seeley Drive in Elgin would offer several advantages; it is in the village core (rather than on Hwy 15), the parking would be sufficient, the land is relatively flat, the type of soil would be appropriate for the septic system, the wetlands have been identified, and the property is

already owned by the municipality. Other members added that there is a school and seniors housing near to the municipal property.

It was a consensus that from an Economic Development perspective, locating the municipal offices in a village would be beneficial, that it would better represent Rideau Lakes to those entering the community, and that the added business activity would support the local economy of that village.

Committee Roundtable

Mayor Hoogenboom:

The importance of tourism was the subject of the Mayor's Video in July. In August, the subject will be campgrounds with a focus on Lower Beverley Lake Park in Delta. Met with business owner Fiona McKeen of The Opinicon, attended both the Delta Fair and the Lombardy Fair that draw a lot of people to the area. At the AMO conference from the 14th to the 21st, a delegation has been scheduled regarding abandoned cemeteries. In anticipation of the upcoming closure of the Lasalle Causeway, meetings with Westport, Merrickville and Smiths Falls have taken place to discuss temporary travel concerns as larger boats (taller than 14 feet) will not be able to pass. For example, cruise ships may choose to travel the St. Lawrence rather than the Rideau Canal Waterway. Municipal partners plan to make a joint presentation to Parks Canada and meet with MP Michael Barrett. A notice of motion is on the Council Agenda for August 6, and a formal resolution is expected at the September meeting, to lobby for an alternate solution. During the construction on Hwy 42, deep culverts to be replaced, paved shoulders and resurfacing impose a 2-week closure from Aug 12 to 26 whereby traffic will detour down McCann Road.

Councillor Linda Carr:

Joined by phone 10:38 a.m.

Councillor Debbie Hutchings:

The Leeds County Plowing Match is taking place in Forfar this year.

Public Representative Ken Davies:

There will be construction on the bridge at Burnt Hills Road affecting traffic from Kingston for 2 years. It is suggested that this be an agenda item for the meeting with Parks Canada. Event at No. 9 Gardens. Delta Fair is a major tourist attraction.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

CLOSED SESSION

Bill Thake Award Nominees for discussion.

RECOMMENDATION # 42-2024

Moved by Councillor Carr

Seconded by Dudley Hill

Be it resolved that the Economic Development Committee of the Township of Rideau Lakes moves into closed meeting 10:39 a.m. to discuss the following matters under Section 239 (2) of the *Municipal Act*.

(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Municipal or local board employee.

Carried

Economic Development Committee Closed Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2024

Nominations for Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership

REPORT REGARDING CLOSED MEETING

RECOMMENDATION # 43-2024

Be it resolved that a Closed Meeting was held and the Committee discussed the Minutes from the previous closed session meeting and an item under a personal matter about identifiable individual(s) including municipal or local board employees. There is nothing to report on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

The Economic Development Committee adjourned meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Marcia Maxwell, Chair

Marie White, Secretary