

Notes of the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) Meeting Held on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM at the Municipal Council Chambers.

Present: Councillor John Inglis (Chair), Councillor Fred Fowler, Betty Hunter, Cyndy Bonello, Paul Thiel, Dan Vaillancourt, Brooke Hawley – Manager of Community Development (MCD), Matt Walker - Economic Development Officer (EDO).

Absent with Regrets: Lori Newman (Secretary)

Guests: Gary Colwell

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:00 a.m.

2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof:

None.

3. Delegations:

None.

4. Economic Development Task Force Notes:

Notes of the July 18, 2022 EDTF Meeting as approved via email and received for information at the August 12, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council.

5. Business Arising:

- a) Complete a monthly Business Profile for existing Businesses for the Township's Website, Social Media and Council Meeting Agendas - Councillor Inglis and Paul Thiel.**

Paul Theil completed a Business Profile for Frontenac Shores which was received for information by Council at the August 12, 2022 meeting (resolution #311-22).

The EDO suggested featuring a Tradesperson Business in September to coincide with National Tradesperson Week (Sept. 11-17). The Chair asked the EDO to assist him and Paul Theil with a write-up and trades statistics. The EDO will reach out.

The EDO will add a link to the Business Directory entry for each Business Profile listed on the website.

b) Continue with Star Gazing Activities/Star Gazing Group

a. Activities Update – Betty Hunter

Betty Hunter advised that the Perseid Meteor Shower event on August 12-13 was well attended with 200-300 attendees. Overflow parking was required.

EDO reported an increase in the amount of Dark Sky Pad (DSP) inquiry calls received.

More volunteers are needed as last event only had three volunteers. Students looking for community hours would be a great option. Betty will follow-up and work on volunteer recruitment.

Cones, marking tape, garbage cans and other supplies are required for events. MCD to follow-up.

Events need to have established end times. This will be implemented moving forward by event leader and MCD.

Google Maps showed the DSP at an incorrect map location. The EDO submitted this correction to Google during the meeting.

Some landscaping on the DSP property would assist in roadside visibility of the site. The MCD will assess the site and arrange to have some trees removed to add further visibility of the signage.

A DSP visitor study that measures economic impact would be beneficial. The EDO will look into and incorporate this into future economic development planning.

Fundraising opportunities such as an on-site donation box or online donating could be implemented. Funds could assist in purchases such as telescope eye pieces/lenses. The Astronomy Club will arrange this.

b. Star Gazing – SOPs – MCD

i. ED-0001 Events at the Dark Sky Pad approved

1. Hand out Volunteer Vests

Current volunteer vests are not visible in low-light conditions. MCD will look into ordering volunteer t-shirts and/or vests. The cost of approximately \$100 will be taken from the \$500 budgeted amount for EDTF initiatives.

ii. ED-0002 Usage of the Fred Lossing Telescope

EDO suggested that technical guidelines be available to users. Gary Colwell, Volunteer Astronomer will prepare these and provide back to the MCD and EDO.

c. Laser Pointers at Star Gazing Pad – EDO

i. Update about Transport Canada approval – EDO

The EDO reported that he is still awaiting a response from Transport Canada regarding the Application to use Laser Pointers at the Star Gazing Pad. This will allow other people authorized by the MCD to use lasers and not limited to just RASC members. The Application is pending and the EDO will update the EDTF as soon as a response is received.

ii. SOP is pending authorization from Transport - MCD

An SOP has been drafted and awaits authorization from Transport Canada.

c) Star Gazing Festival

a. General Update - Councillor Inglis (Chair), Betty Hunter, Dan Vaillancourt and Cindy Bonello.

Council approved \$1,500 for the Star Gazing Festival at the last Council meeting.

Security for the event was quoted at \$600.

Myers Cave Resort (Red Barn Zone food truck) will be offering food for sale at the event.

Astronomy Plus has offered to set-up a booth to sell astronomy items.

The EDO presented two event poster drafts for consideration. The 'blue' background one was selected. The EDO will make edits to the poster and also reformat a version to fit a ¼ page.

A ¼ page ad in the Frontenac News will be purchased (in conjunction with the Studio Tour).

b. Refreshment Vehicle By-law

i. Update re: Refreshment Vehicle time of day restrictions

The MCD reported that the Star Gazing Festival has been granted an exemption by Council.

d) 2022 Business Bus Tour – EDO, Councillor Inglis (Chair) and Paul Thiel.

The EDO, Councillor Inglis and Paul Thiel will plan an in-person meeting to discuss ideas for the Bus Tour for Businesses to attend other businesses throughout the Township in 2022 and provide an update at the next EDTF meeting.

e) Ontario By-Bike – Bicycle Friendly Businesses - general Update re: successful Township registration - EDO

As previously approved by Council, the Municipal Office has been successfully registered as an Ontario By Bike cyclist information stop. A small bicycle repair kit is available at reception for cyclists to use for quick repairs.

6. Communications:

None.

7. New Business:

a) Short-Term Economic Priorities Admin Report to Council - MCD

Received by the EDTF for information only. No discussion.

8. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m. The next meeting of the EDTF will take place on Monday, September 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Council Chambers located at 6648 Road 506, Plevna.

Recommendations to Council

Be It Resolved That Council receives for information the August 15, 2022 Notes of the Economic Development Task Force (EDTF).

Received by Council on September 2, 2022.

Councillor John Inglis, Chair
Township of North Frontenac
Economic Development Task Force