



## **Brock Economic Development Advisory Committee**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Chair Colleen Davidson, Jordan Mount, Jane Trollope, Peter Prust, David Rhead, Regional Councillor Ted Smith, Carole Roberts

**Absent:** Brian McGregor

**Staff:** Glen Macfarlane - Rural Economic Development Specialist, Durham Region, Stacey Jibb - Manager, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, Durham Region, Carolyn Puterbough - OMAFRA, Ingrid Svelnis – C.O, Stefanie Stickwood – Clerk's Assistant (recording the minutes)

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Colleen Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests**

None was disclosed.

#### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by David Rhead that the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4. Hearing of Deputations**

There were no deputations.

#### **5. Business Arising out of the Minutes**

None.

## 6. General Items

### a) Tri-EDAC

A meeting was held on May 20, 2021. A link to the recording of the meeting was circulated to the group. It was noted that a presentation on Envision Durham, the Region's Official Plan from the Regional Planning Department, was presented.

Should the group choose to submit a response towards the Official Plan it would be required to go to Council for approval.

A shared document with the group's comments would be created with each item being categorized as to where it belonged with respect to the Region and Province. The Region and Township support staff to the Committee would work together on the list.

Each chair gave a brief overview of what their committee has accomplished during the current year thus far. There was a general consensus amongst the three groups the need for more frequent collaborations of the northern municipalities.

The three committees suggested a collaborative trade show that would include the Brock Board of Trade, Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce and Scugog's Business Improvement Association.

A separate meeting had been arranged for all three chairs of the Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge Economic Development Committees to have a presentation on broadband.

### b) Business Visits

A business survey was shared with the group. The intent was to distribute online with the hope of attracting more businesses.

The survey would be launched through the Township's engagement platform Bang the Table, as well as social media etc.

The group discussed each question and made a few changes to the order, as well as, adding a question that would ask each business to identify the sector their business in under and to have two separate questions that would help to identify any red flags and inquire if the business wished for a more in-depth, follow-up interview.

The survey would be re-circulated with the incorporated changes.

Moved by David Rhead that the business survey be approved with the changes discussed.

MOTION CARRIED.

c) EDAC Teams Channel

The Committee was reminded of the Teams Channel created, to allow for sharing and collaboration of information amongst the group.

A link to join was sent to each member.

The Committee discussed how meetings could occur post COVID. It was suggested a hybrid model be utilized to allow those not comfortable to meet in person to still participate through a virtual option.

**d) Updates**

a) Brock Board of Trade

No update was provided at this time as the next meeting had not yet occurred.

b) Tourism Advisory Committee

The Tourism Committee was hopeful to begin a Tourism Ambassador Program by partnering with Durham Tourism and Central Counties. The BEDAC Chair would attend on behalf of the Committee.

Online registration would occur on Monday, June 21, 2021.

c) South Lake Community Futures

Services currently being offered had differed from that offered in the past. Including, but not limited to, providing additional loans and increasing pre-existing loans.

South Lake continues to support businesses during COVID through a learning model, loans and by forgiving deadlines.

d) Township of Brock

The Township was to have a Council meeting in July and August this year. It was noted an announcement was soon to be released about the incoming Clerk/Deputy CAO.

e) OMAFRA

A series of workshops was being offered throughout the months of July and August, as well as, two new funding programs. One program would assist agricultural and food producers looking to invest in technological equipment. The other was an enhanced agricultural food protection program that would cover some of the cost incurred with the purchase of personal protective equipment and enhanced workstations.

f) Region of Durham

The Region continues to promote local food growers throughout the area.

The Farm 911 program was soon to be launched which would have 911 signs placed on

vacant lots.

The Region was currently investigating in the feasibility of a local food hub.

The Regional Business count had begun. Because of COVID, the program was primarily being conducted through phone and email.

## **7. Other Matters**

### **a) Community Organization Rep**

The group was advised that one of its members had resigned as they had moved out of area.

The resignation was discussed at the June 14 Committee of the Whole Meeting where it was confirmed there were enough voting members as per the terms of references, and no new membership to fill the vacancy was required at this time.

### **b) New Businesses to Brock Township**

The Committee was aware of two new businesses soon to open in Brock Township and it was expressed the importance of providing support.

### **c) Reader's Choice Awards Nominations**

An announcement for this year's reader's choice awards had been released, however Brock was not included. There was concern as this publication was for Durham Region and Brock was losing visual within the Region.

The Committee approved for Chair Davidson to contact the media consultant to make them aware of the oversight.

The Regional support staff to the Committee would review the oversight as well.

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

September 21, 2021

## **9. Adjournment**

Moved by Jordan Mount that the meeting adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED.