



Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

West Grey Economic Development Advisory Committee

Monday September 26, 2022

Virtual Meeting: via Zoom

Present: Chair Steve Morel, Pat Crocker, Kerri Eady, Elizabeth MacKenzie, Darrin Patey, Michelle Patey, Hazel Pratt, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Stephen Townsend (left meeting at 9:50), Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson (left meeting at 9:40)

Absent: Paul MacDonald

Staff present: Laura Johnston CAO, Kodey Hewlett Corporate & Community Initiatives Officer, Lorelie Spencer Manager of Planning & Development, Alison Theodore, Economic Development Officer, Grey County (guest)

1. Call to Order: by Chair S. Morel at 8:05 a.m.
2. Approval of Agenda: with adjustment to switch order of Items 7.b) and c), moved by E. MacKenzie, seconded by M. Patey, and CARRIED.
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: none
4. Delegations: none
5. Guests: Alison Theodore, Grey County Economic Development
6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: with the amendment in the minutes of September 12, 2022 EDAC meeting that S. Morel left the meeting at 9:45 not 10:15 a.m. Moved by H. Pratt, seconded by P. Crocker, and CARRIED.
7. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting:

- a. Neustadt business owners update (E. MacKenzie and P. Crocker):

Some Neustadt business owners met at Noah's Inn to gauge interest in forming a BIA. Not well attended, and some issues raised about tax levy, business hours and residential development in commercial spaces. Next steps will be to get more information about creation and benefits of a BIA for Neustadt business owners. Follow-up to include meeting with Minto economic development, send list of questions to West Grey staff (L. Johnston, K. Hewlett) and Grey County Economic Development staff (S. Meyers, A. Theodore), and OBIAA (Ontario BIA Association) for support and information. Other Neustadt downtown issues discussed were: consistent businesses hours, promotion of economic development for Neustadt, issue of residential units created in commercial properties (legal vs illegal non-conforming bylaws and enforcement), Neustadt Mill building standards.

- b. (former 7.c) Museum Proposal:

Councillor D. Hutchinson received a proposal from a Durham resident with curator experience and an interest in local history to create a museum in the former Durham pump house, to become a West Grey Heritage Centre. Discussion about other communities with museum/tourism booth, cost of investment/use of staff, possibility to utilize the building to generate revenue, adaptable space. Suggestions/discussion about needing momentum to build donor/sponsorships, fundraising and available grants, suggestion to have West Grey building department look at the building for viability and accessibility, could museum host meetings to generate revenue/fundraising? Therefore,

Motion “That council consider future use of the Durham pumphouse building and property, and further,

That council supports the recommendation from the Economic Development Advisory Committee for staff to investigate the condition and potential uses of the building, as promoted by a museum-use proposal.” Moved: M Patey; Seconded K Eady. CARRIED.

c) previously 7b) 2023 Budget Considerations:

Discussion that the momentum of the revitalization plan and CIP programs have had a positive outcome on economic development in our settlement areas, need traction and focus to move forward on EDAC goals, still good uptake of CIP program funds, need for more social media presence. Therefore,

Motion “That council supports the recommendation from the Economic Development Advisory Committee to approve the addition of a full-time Economic Development Officer to lead and continue the Economic Development Strategy and initiatives underway.”

Moved: M Patey; Seconded: E MacKenzie; CARRIED.

8. New Business:

a. Business Mix Analysis/Strategic Plan clarity: K. Hewlett reported that in the next few weeks, he and A. Theodore EDO Grey County, will reach out to Neustadt businesses for assistance in updating information for presentation to council. The title is being adjusted to Business Mix Analysis instead of Strategic Plan to better reflect the study. The consulting team from Laurier University will be working on the analysis project.

9. Correspondence: none

10. Closed Session: none

11. Report from closed session: not applicable

12. Next meeting date: All Committees of Council are suspended for October until next council.

13. Adjournment: Moved by H. Pratt, seconded by E. MacKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m., CARRIED.