



## Minutes

West Grey Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Monday, January 8, 2021  
Virtual meeting, via Zoom

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Members present: Deputy Mayor Tom Hutchinson, Councillor Stephen Townsend, Councillor Doug Huchinson, Andrew Lawrence, Hazel Pratt-Paige, Elizabeth MacKenzie, Laura Johnston CAO, Kodey Hewlett Recreation Supervisor, Lorelie Spencer Manager of Planning and Development

Members absent: Jackie Gingrich

Guests: Steve Furness, Manager, Economic Development, Grey County, Alison Theodore, Economic Development Officer, Grey County.

**Call to order** at 10:05 am with quorum.

**Approval of agenda** – One agenda item – working on our Economic Development Strategic Plan, led by Grey County staff – Steve Furness Manager of Economic Development and Alison Theodore Economic Development Officer.

### **West Grey Economic Development Strategic Plan**

- Steve Furness outlined some broad areas to consider – community pride & connection, what is it we do, good news stories/successes, attraction retention & expansion, growth management. Outline from last meeting's session will be sent out to committee members.
- Alison Theodore led discussions about business mix analysis, business mapping and marketing, community amenities and services for attraction.
- Discussion & suggestions from EDAC members – identify WG strength operationally and budgetary, communicate with existing businesses asking what are WG business advantages & quality of life. Vacant business spaces could be linked to WG website & BIAs websites to share available opportunities, redirecting investment, downtown revitalization will add vitality.
- Every WG community has its own attractions & challenges. Durham – conservation park & trails, waterfalls, empty storefronts. Neustadt has mill & brewery for sale and should be targeted for possible investors, tunnel under the road from brewery, John Deifenbaker birthplace. Ayton has mill, waterfall but downtown area needs attention. Elmwood has no water/sewage services leading to unusable buildings/properties, Northern Credit Union branch closing, satellite library closing, has good relationship with Brockton for community centre and parklands. New housing builds along WG conc 10 expanding.
- Steve Furness noted that to secure investment WG needs to be investment/attraction ready. Need mapping of investment opportunities, services/zoning.

(2) December 17, 2019

- Lorelie Spencer led the discussion on status of WG communities/hamlets. Suggested a planning meeting for a staff working group. Grey County staff will meet and work with West Grey staff to incorporate input to the draft Strat Plan and return to the committee with tasks and timelines.

**Committee Members** – recruitment campaign for new Ec Dev committee members. Presently we have only five members at-large. Lorelie Spencer suggested opportunity for a (high school, college) student member for input and information.

**Adjournment** at 11:05 am

**Next meeting date** – Discussion around planning standardized meeting schedule. Meeting cycle to be second Mondays 11am-12:30 am

- April 12 at 11:00 am

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, Chair

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, Secretary