

## **Durham BIA Exec meeting**

### **28 April 2021; via Zoom**

**Present:** Nereda Manion, Steve Morel, Doug Hutchinson, Tim Dyck, Connie MacEwan, Kathy Chiu, and guests Becky Weltz and Susan Tremble (Candue Homes).

**Welcome** by Tim, chair.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from last meeting (AGM, 17 March) by Connie, seconded by Steve; carried.

**Social** media: Connie hasn't received any submissions for feature posts. Nereda suggested sharing member's posts.

**Guests:** Susan reported that they have purchased the Rx and Smartbuys buildings, and will be renovating them. They are keen to see energy put into making the town look good: removal of old signs, painting bridge, florals. They are willing to share tradespeople referrals.

**West Grey update:** Doug reviewed the CIP and SEDC loans, and the upcoming business mix analysis and Saugeen Connects program. Also still upcoming: banner program and garbage receptacles. Hopefully the removal of the tax break for vacant buildings will shake things up. Steve asked how we can attract businesses and pointed to other successful programs (eg. Minneapolis). Becky suggested we need a paid Ec. Dev. staff. Doug pointed to Planner L Spencer as having that portfolio. Nereda suggested youth business sponsorship.

**Action:** Exec will individually walk around and make notes on buildings and businesses and think about possible incubator projects. We will meet again informally May 5 at 7pm to brainstorm, and then send a rep to the Econ. Dev. committee meeting on May 10 at 11am.

**Events:** Mostly on hold or postponed. Connie suggested a laser light show (winter).

**Beautification:** Community Beautification Committee will be doing baskets and bridge again, and will ask for family sponsorships of beds. Becky will check with Sue Papineau.

**Zoom:** Motion to renew our account month-to-month as needed: by Connie, seconded by Steve; carried.