

ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES January 26, 2023

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Strong Office and virtually on January 26, 2023 at 6:00pm.

Present: Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour, Chair
Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Chris Hope, Village of Burk's Falls
Dan Robertson, Township of Ryerson
Chris Nicholson, Township of Joly
Justine Levesque, Village of Sundridge
Brenda Scott, Village of South River
Tim Bryson, Township of Strong
Ron Begin, FedNor

Regrets: Trista Porter, MND

Staff: Courtney Metcalf, Economic Development Officer
John Theriault, Township of Armour
Katey Brimacombe, Township of Joly

Guest: Sheri Norman, AHCC
Heather Pateman, Town of Kearney
Rod Ward, Township of Armour

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Thursday December 22, 2022, meeting were adopted as circulated.

Round Table Introductions

New members and guests at the table were introduced.

2022 Annual Report

The Economic Development Officer presented the 2022 annual report items included in the report were:

1. ACED is guided in their actions by several studies which have been completed over the years, the 2016 BR&E Report, the 2018 RED Plan, the 2020 Agricultural Strategy and the 2021 Brand Strategy.
2. ACED works collaboratively with partners and businesses to achieve common goals. This is the basis of the successes ACED has been able to achieve over the years.
3. The report includes statistics on the results achieved in our region in 2022 compared to the targets that the Board had set for the department.
4. The annual report also highlights separately each of the 2022 program, what it accomplished and how much financial help ACED provided.
5. One of the requirements for the funding we received is to complete the work that was proposed to be done in the 2018 Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan (RED Plan). The 2022 Annual Report includes a listing of the work recommended by the RED Plan, what has been completed, what we are still working on, details on the work ACED has completed and all of the financial resources which have been used.
6. The Annual report includes a listing of the work performed on the 2020 Agricultural & Culinary Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, the 2021 Almaguin Regional Brand Strategy and the Regional Asset Development.

The Board discussed the report, asked questions and passed a resolution recommending that the report be reviewed by all partners.

2023 Work Plan

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2023 Work Plan has been delayed and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Verbal Current Activity Update

The Economic Development Officer gave an update to the Board on the current work staff is doing on behalf of ACED. This includes the following:

1. Continuation of the BR&E program
2. Continuing support for the Chamber of Commerce
3. Going forward with the Carpool Almaguin Program
4. Moving the Brand Strategy Implementation forward
5. High School Engagement program, making presentation and getting students interested in the Summer Company Program
6. Working with Powassan to hold an Agricultural Summit

The regular monthly report updating the Board will be on the next agenda.

Round Table Comments from Board Members

The Board requested that staff track requests from any of the partners so that they can show how much of their time is spent dealing with these requests.

The Board had a discussion on how collaboration between all of the municipalities and organizations in our area are beneficial. We have much more influence together than separately. ACED has to promote collaboration so we can move forward with economic development.

The Board also discussed the need for volunteers to help with health care so that we can keep people in their homes as long as we can. Home care is more financially viable than having people in the system. ACED was asked to promote health care volunteerism on their website and other social platforms.

The Board also discussed the need for a long-term strategy for housing. The Province is pushing for more housing so it is time for ACED to get involved. Staff will revisit funding for a housing strategy. The Board discussed the fact that granny suites were implemented by the Province many years ago and they have not really been promoted by municipalities. This may be a way to increase the number of housing in the area.

In order to help with planning in our area, it may be a good idea to have one Official Plan and one Zoning By-law to be shared by all of the municipalities. This would make thing easier to plan and share.

Updates

FedNor

Presently concentrating on completing COVID programs. New budget will be coming down shortly and FedNor hopes that they will get enough money to help with economic development in the region. There ahs been discussions to bring East and West parry Sound together to promote programs.

MND

No update

Resolutions

1. 2022-01 – Moved by Margaret Ann MacPhail; Seconded by Jennifer Farquhar;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of December 22, 2022, as circulated. Carried
2. 2022-02 – Moved by Margaret Ann MacPhail; Seconded by Dan Robertson;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board have received and reviewed the 2022 ACED Annual Report and recommend that each member organization review it at their next council/board meeting. Carried

Adjournment

3. 2022-03 – Moved by Chris Nicholson; Seconded by Justine Levesque;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn
the January 26, 2023, ACED meeting at 7:00 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be Thursday February 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. If this changes, members will be advised.