

ALMAGUIN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ACED)

MINUTES June 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the ACED Board was held at the Township of Armour Office and virtually on June 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

Present: Tim Bryson, Township of Joly, Chair
Wendy Whitwell, Township of Armour
Jennifer Farquhar, AHCC Representative
Barb Belrose, Village of Sundridge
Margaret Ann MacPhail, Township of Perry
Ron Begin, FedNor
Kelly Elik, Township of Strong
Delynne Patterson, Township of Ryerson
John Wilson, Village of Burk's Falls
Peter McIsaac, Municipality of Powassan
Tim Brunton, Municipality of Magnetawan

Regrets: Melanie Alkins, MENDM
Brenda Scott, Village of South River

Staff: Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development
Ciara Ryan, Communication & Marketing Officer
John Theriault, Township of Armour

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Monday, May 17, 2021 meeting were adopted as circulated.

Director of Economic Development (DED) Report

The ACED Board reviewed the June report from the Director of Economic Development.

The Director covered the following items from the report;

1. An update on core activity tracking, which lists what the department has done over the past month. These included ACED website updates, social media activities, communications and business assistance.

2. The report updated different projects, including the Welcome Wagon Program, the Visitors Guide, Staycation, Community Development, Regional Broadband Development, Transportation Development, Regional Brand Strategy Implementation, Agricultural Strategy Implementation, the great taste of Ontario Road trip, Health Initiatives and Youth Migration.
3. The Board was advised that NECO has approved a \$10,000 contribution to the Staycation Program.
4. The Board was given an update on the development of the Armour Highway 520 and Highway 11 Industrial Parks. Three developers are looking to develop these parks and the Township and the Village are looking at extending hydro, broadband and gas services to the parks.
5. The Board received a resolution from the Municipality of Magnetawan advising that they are giving one year's notice to withdraw from ACED. The Municipality of Magnetawan also sent a legal opinion on their right to withdraw. The Board discussed the withdrawal and whether or not ACED should get a legal opinion on the withdrawal.

Correspondence

The Board received and discussed a copy of a letter to be sent to Norm Miller, MPP, by Dave Gray, Director of Economic Development concerning the reintroduction of passenger rail services to Northern Ontario. The letter is requesting that Almaguin remains a consideration for future planned stops if passenger rail service is reintroduced. The Board advised the Director to send the letter.

The Board received and reviewed the Eat Local Almaguin Digital Newsletter.

Updates

FEDNOR

The assistance program from FedNor is still in effect to help businesses who are struggling through the pandemic. There should be an announcement within the next few days for funding from the Federal Government to help restart the economy. The Almaguin Brand Strategy is in a good place, the implementation should go forward.

Other Business

The grant approval for the Brand Strategy should be coming soon.

Resolutions

1. 2021-019 – Moved by Barb Belrose; Seconded by Delynne Patterson;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board approve the minutes of May 17, 2021, as circulated. Carried

Adjournment

2. 2020-20 – Moved by Barb Belrose;
Be it resolved that the Almaguin Community Economic Development Board adjourn the June 21, 2021 ACED meeting at 7:10 p.m. Carried

The next meeting will be August 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. If this changes, members will be advised.