



Economic Development Committee Minutes

March 31, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Glen McNeil
Jennifer Miltenburg
Evan Hickey
Tricia Denomme
Sierra Lamb-Downey
Joe Bernier

Staff Present:

Florence Witherspoon
Deputy Clerk/Communications Co-ordinator, Kelly
Thomson

**The Economic Development Committee met in the Council Chambers at 82133 Council Line,
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

As Chair Glen McNeil attended the meeting virtually, Jennifer Miltenburg will call the meeting to order.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None disclosed.

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

MOTION 1

Moved by Tricia Denomme
Seconded by Sierra Lamb-Downey

THAT the Minutes dated January 13, 2025 of the Economic Development Committee be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 Huron Chamber of Commerce - Colin Carmichael Executive Director

Mr. Carmichael, Executive Director of the Huron Chamber of Commerce will be in attendance to provide an information session to the Committee on the activities of the Chamber.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

ACTION: The Committee requested that the opportunity for membership with the Huron Chamber of Commerce be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

4.2 SLED and AccessSLED Programs

We have provided the Committee with the report prepared by Deputy Clerk / Communications Co-ordinator Kelly Thomson.

STAFF COMMENTS: We seek your direction.

ACTION: Apply to the Access SLED Fund for the Benmiller Park & Playground Equipment Project. Further, the Committee agreed to submit an application to the SLED Fund to support the Benmiller Park & Playground Equipment Project in the amount of \$10,000.

4.3 Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation Awards

We have provided the Committee with the report prepared by Deputy Clerk / Communications Co-ordinator Kelly Thomson.

STAFF COMMENTS: That the Economic Development Committee reviews all applications and recommends nominees for awards for approval from Council.

ACTION: The Committee agreed to recommend Jim Van Osch, Chair of the Kingsbridge Community for the 2025 Individual Award and the St. Joseph's Kingsbridge Community for the 2025 Volunteer Group Award for recognition at the April 22, 2025 Council meeting.

Further the Committee requested that the application process be modified by removing the requirement for nominees to allow their names to stand with enhanced promotion of the reward.

4.4 Ontario Express Bus -Transportation Servicing Huron County to London

At the time the agenda was published, Ontario Express Bus had not responded to multiple emails inquiring about a possible flag stop in the Township. It is unclear whether the route to Port Elgin is currently in service, as it was previously suspended due to low ridership, winter weather, and a shortage of drivers. At this time, there is no option to purchase a ticket for the route travelling through Huron County.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

4.5 Thrive Summit – April 14-15, 2025

The 2025 Huron County Thrive Summit is being held on April 14-15, 2025 at the Blyth Community Hall.

STAFF COMMENTS: For your information purposes.

ACTION: Jennifer Miltenburg and Glen McNeil will be registered.

4.6 Avon Maitland District School Board - Pathways Opportunity

We have provided the Committee with the correspondence received by AMDSB regarding an opportunity for the Township to collaborate with Brookside Public School.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

ACTION: The Committee agreed to have staff connect with the Goderich District Collegiate Institute and the Huron Manufacturing Association to see if the trades' introduction type program still exists and what the opportunity to be for the Committee to support for Brookside Students. Staff will also respond to the AMDSB and advise that should the planning for next year provide some opportunities for Brookside, to please let the Committee know.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Items to be brought forward to a future meeting.

Trisha Denomme highlighted the Huron County Economic Development's Summer Company and requested it be shared on ACW's social media pages.

Joe Bernier requested some information on potential economic development incentives for vacant buildings across the Township.

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting scheduled of the Economic Development Committee is on May 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION 2

Moved by Tricia Denomme

Seconded by Sierra Lamb-Downey

THAT the Economic Development Committee does now adjourn to meet again on May 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. or at the Call of the Chair.

Carried

Councillor, Jennifer Miltenburg

Clerk, Florence Witherspoon