

Minutes of April 14, 2016  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
Town of Minto Administration Office 3:00 p.m.

Present:, Councillor Ron Elliott, Councillor Jean Anderson, Councillor Mary Lou Colwell, Economic Development Manager Belinda Wick-Graham, Treasurer Gordon Duff, Chair John Mock, Harold DeVries, Alison Armstrong, Jonathan Zettler, and Hope Reidt.

Regrets were received from Mayor George Bridge, CAO/Clerk Bill White, Kirk Brownell Kelly Schafer and Gerry Horst.

Wick-Graham opened the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

The Committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Councillor Ron Elliott and Seconded by: Jonathan Zettler**

**That the Economic Development and Planning Committee approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Downtown Revitalization Update

The Committee reviewed the Harriston Downtown Revitalization minutes from April 4, 2016. The Committee is awaiting concept drawings on the public space in front of The Old Post and planning for the Street Party in August.

Wick-Graham reported that 257 resident surveys have been completed and the goal is 310.

TG Minto Employee Survey

Brownell was unable to attend the meeting but reported to Wick-Graham that the remainder of the TG Minto surveys have been completed. Surveys will be picked up and entered into the system.

Job Fair

Wick-Graham reported MSW Plastics and TG Minto attended the Job Fair in Arthur representing the Town of Minto. Approximately 70 people attended the Job Fair.

Career & Volunteer Fair

Wick-Graham reminded the Committee about the Career & Volunteer Fair at the Palmerston Community Centre on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:45 pm – 3:00 pm. This event is in partnership with Norwell DSS, Wellington North and Mapleton.

Butter Tarts & Buggies

Wick-Graham reported that ten Minto businesses have signed up to be a part of the Butter Tart & Buggies initiative.

Hawk's Nest

Wick-Graham reported that the live Hawk's Nest event will be taking place on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Kincardine. The Committee is focused on sponsorships right now. Tickets will go on sale shortly and are \$25 each. The night of the event seven businesses will "pitch" to the Hawk's for a chance at \$25,000.

Minutes of April 14, 2016  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
Town of Minto Administration Office 3:00 p.m.

Spring Rural Romp

Wick-Graham highlighted that the Spring Rural Romp would once again be taking place throughout the northern portion of Wellington County on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff is currently working on signing up partners.

PitchIt

Wick-Graham reported that there were six entries for PitchIt and five finalists moving on to complete their full business plan and make their “pitch” to the judges.

Chamber of Commerce Update

Chair John Mock reported that the Minto Chamber of Commerce has set up sub-committees and is working through the implementation of the strategic plan. The Community Achievement Awards are taking place April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Harriston Legion. The Mayor’s Breakfast series will be kicking off May 6<sup>th</sup> in Clifford, May 13<sup>th</sup> in Harriston and May 27<sup>th</sup> in Palmerston.

Wick-Graham highlighted that WOWSA (Women of Wellington Saugeen Area) will be hosting the Canadian Premiere of “Dream, Girl” at the Norgan Theatre on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a documentary that speaks to empowering female leaders and entrepreneurs from a young age. All are welcome to attend and tickets can be purchased on the Norgan Theatre website for \$20. The World Premiere will be taking place at the same time in New York so special arrangements are being made to live stream the Q&A with the Director and Producer.

LaunchIt Update

Councillor Mary Lou Colwell reported that LaunchIt Minto is welcoming a new Board Member – Bernice Weber from Ag. Business & Crop Inc. Numerous training sessions are scheduled including sessions with Conestoga College and a Lunch N Learn with Westario Power.

Wick-Graham reported that she and Business Development Coordinator Gerber submitted an application to Libro Credit Union to offer some preliminary Agriculture related programming. Notification about the grant results is not expected until September.

IPM Update

Gordon Duff reminded the Committee that the kick-off event is April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Drayton Festival Theatre. Budgets are coming together and the big push right now is for sponsors. Exhibitor packages are expected to be out shortly.

Other Business

Wick-Graham reported that work is underway on new “Come Home to Minto” videos. The first video will feature The Old Post. Wick-Graham also reported that she attended the Builders Forum in Mildmay which resulted in some interest in the Clifford residential lots.

Minutes of April 14, 2016  
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Alison Armstrong reported that tenants will be moving into the Minto Rural Health Centre in the next week and official operations are expected to begin May 1<sup>st</sup>. Tenants include: Dr. Cressey, Family Health Team, Palmerston Hospital Foundation, Community Care Access Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, St. Elizabeth Wound Care and the Family Health Organization. Two additional spaces remain to accommodate new doctors. Armstrong passed along kudos to the Town of Minto Council and Staff for their assistance in the project.

Hope Reidt reported that Wightman has launched their Home Builder Developer Program, are looking at hiring co-op students and volunteers to assist with the community channel and that there Fergus fibre install is underway.

Councillor Colwell reported that C&M Seeds was able to hire their latest employee through the Minto Job & Housing Portal.

Jonathan Zettler reported that the \$4 million available in the Phosphorus loading program has gone quickly and that this April is the coldest April in four years.

Harold DeVries noted that he and Business Development Coordinator Somer Gerber spoke to the grade 10 and 11/12 business classes at Norwell about entrepreneurship. He reminded the Committee that the deadline for Summer Company applications is May 6<sup>th</sup> and GWBEC is awaiting news on RED funding for a new program.

Treasurer Duff reported that the Town of Minto was successful in receiving funding through the Connecting Link Program for Clifford Main Street improvements and through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Program for projects in Palmerston. He also noted that the Cultural Roundtable is hosting a series of workshops on Volunteer Recruitment, Retention and Recognition.

Councillor Ron Elliott highlighted that Splash Pad Bash is taking place June 11<sup>th</sup> and the Party in the Park will be held June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:**

**Moved by: Hope Reidt and Seconded by: Councillor Ron Elliott**

**That the meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED**

Adjournment at 4:34 pm

Next Meeting: May 12, 2016 at 3:00 pm at Town of Minto Council Chambers

Belinda Wick-Graham  
Manager of Economic Development