

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

Economic Development Advisory Committee

AGENDA - November 4, 2019 - 11:30 a.m.

MEETING - Committee Room, Civic Centre

Page

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Non-agenda Committee items which because of urgency cannot be deferred to a subsequent meeting, identified to be considered later in the meeting.**
3. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**
4. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**
 - 4.1 September 9, 2019. 2 - 3
5. **Items Referred from Council**
 - 5.1 Request from R. Socholotuk re: Use of Off Road Vehicles (please also include snowmobiles in your recommendations to Council). 4 - 5
6. **New Business**
 - 6.1 Request from J. Cumming - Discussion re: Potential strategies to expand educational opportunities.
7. **Standing Items**
 - 7.1 Mill Update.
 - 7.2 Municipal Strategic Plan.
 - 7.3 Crossroute Forest Update.
 - 7.4 Brainstorming Session - Driving Economic Growth as revised. 6
 - 7.5 Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) Committee.
 - 7.6 Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Update.
8. **Adjourn / Next Meeting Date - December 2, 2019**

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
Economic Development Advisory Committee

MINUTES

September 9, 2019

The meeting of Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room, Civic Centre on September 9, 2019 from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Cumming, Chair, Mayor J. Caul, Chief W. Windigo, D. Eldridge, K. Firth, D. Kircher, K. Ballard, M. Caron

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, G. Gillon, RRFDC, L. Mose, MNDM, R. Thoms (93.1 The Border), K. Lawson, Deputy Clerk/Committee Secretary

REGRETS: Councillor J. McTaggart, J. Gillon, T. Drysdale, Consultant, RRFDC

1. **Call to Order - 11:40 a.m.**
2. **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof - none identified**
3. **Approval of Previous Advisory Committee Minutes**

3.1 June 3rd, 2019.

Firth-Kircher: THAT the minutes from the June 3rd, 2019 regular meeting be approved as distributed.

CARRIED

4. New Business

4.1 Crossroute Forest (ESFL) Update.

- Mayor Caul and D. Brown advised that the Town continues to work to protect the local supply of wood and to ensure that all wood previously earmarked for the Fort Frances mill remains in the district, in hopes that a potential operator can be found to restart the mill. She said Council is continuing to work with Minister Rickford in attempts to get things done. Mayor Caul felt that those discussions had been positive but to date nothing has been received in writing and this item remains at the forefront of Council's agenda. She said that she understood that Minister Rickford and Minister Yakabuski intended on having further meetings on the issue but has received no word on the outcome of any such discussions to date.

4.2 Municipal Strategic Plan Update.

- Mayor Caul and D. Brown updated committee on the plans respecting the Strategic Planning sessions for town Council, senior managers and Town committees/stakeholders. Jordan Forbes, HR Manager will be facilitating the sessions and discussion booklets will be forwarded shortly.

- 4.3 Mill Update.
- Mayor Caul expressed concerns with the purchaser of the mill and the restrictive covenants which have been placed on the purchase of sale. She stated that she has not had any recent discussions with developer Justus Veldman. Mayor Caul expressed concerns that some pieces of heavy equipment have been removed from the mill property.

5. Standing Items

- 5.1 Review - April 1, 2019 EDAC Brainstorming Session - Driving Economic Growth as revised. Chief Windigo spoke briefly about two of the businesses that Little Otter Economic Development LP owns in Fort Frances (Taggs for Sports and McTaggarts) and the challenges which came about as a result of the homeless shelter being situated on Scott Street. He discussed the financial concerns surround increased shoplifting and also consumers fear of those persons frequenting the shelter. This has been a common problem for those businesses operating on Scott Street. He advised that the building formerly housing the shelter has been purchased and plans are underway for its use. He expressed concerns about rumours that a substance abuse and treatment centre is looking to be situated on Scott Street. D. Brown spoke briefly about the development of the Community Safety and Well Being Plan. Committee made two small revisions to the Brainstorming Session spreadsheet (create better retail atmosphere in community and systemic health issues). This working document remains a standing discussion item.
- 5.2 Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) Committee (update will be deferred to next meeting).
- 5.3 Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot Update.
- G. Gillon advised that there has been no news on this pilot project at this time.

6. Information:

- 6.1 Northern Policy Institute - Northern Projection - Rainy River District.
- these materials were provided as information. The Chair requested that all members should take the time to read the materials found within. He requested that a discussion item for potential strategies to expand educational opportunities be added to the next regular agenda.

7. Adjourn - 12:40 p.m./ Next Meeting Date - October 21st, 2019

Committee was advised that the next regular meeting which was scheduled for October 7th, 2019 would have to be rescheduled as the Town's Strategic Planning session is scheduled for that date. The new date of October 21st was confirmed by members.

Administration & Finance Division
Planning & Development Division
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September 10, 2019

Mr. Rick Socholotuk
753 Thompson Street
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 2W7

Dear Sir:

At their meeting September 9, 2019, Council referred the letter dated September 4, 2019 from R. Socholotuk re: Off Road Vehicle Use to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for recommendation with additional input from the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee, Traffic Safety Committee, Economic Development Advisory Committee and Police Services Board.

By copy of this letter, your request has been referred as directed.

Please direct any questions you may have to P. Briere, By-law Enforcement Officer / Secretary to Planning & Development Executive Committee, at 274-5323, ext 1218.

Yours very truly,

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

Elizabeth (Lisa) Slomke, Clerk

ES/kl

- c.c. Planning and Development Executive Committee – Attn: P. Briere, By-Law Enforcement/Committee Secretary
Operations & Facilities Executive Committee – Attn: T. Rob, Mgr. Operations & Facilities
Traffic Safety Committee – Attn: M. Strachan, Transportation Superintendent
Economic Development Advisory Committee – Attn: K. Lawson, Deputy Clerk
Fort Frances Police Services Board – Attn: K. Lawson, Deputy Clerk

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Rick Socholotuk
753 Thompson St.
Fort Frances, On
P9A 2W7



September 4, 2019

Dear Mayor Caul & Council

As a citizen of this town for over seventy years, I think it is time we start taking a different approach to providing activities within the town limits.

As stated in an article in the Fort Frances Times, the Rainy River District OPP and the town of Fort Frances advise the public that the operation of off-road vehicles within the town of Fort Frances is illegal as per by-law #46/15. It's evident that we are one of very few communities in Northwestern Ontario and possibly Ontario in general, where this condition exists.

I believe it's important, if we wish to call ourselves a tourist destination, we must offer people who would come here the chance to enjoy an activity that is available in so many other communities in Northwestern Ontario.

ATV and side-by-side operations are family oriented activities and are not restricted by age or physical ability. If the by-law were changed to allow riders access to the streets within the city limits, it could also provide a less-expensive alternative for transportation to some members of our aging population.

I would be more than willing to discuss this issue in person should you wish further input. Let's work together to create a more tourist-friendly vacation destination.

Sincerely

Rick Socholotuk

Tourism		Industrial Growth			Transfers	Enhanced Senior Services		Infrastructure and Services
Tourism Lake & Waterfront Development		SME Retention Expansion Development	Crossroute Fiber Usage and Other Manufacturing AG Products		Health Care Support	Enhanced Seniors Services		Senior Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transportation- Programs
		Create better retail atmosphere in community (systemic health issues)						
Waterfront Woodyard Development		\$10 Million Private Community Investment Fund	Manufacturing <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mill- Value Added, i.e. Dog Food/Pet		Expansion of Health Care Imaging.	Quality of Life Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Housing- Public Transportation-Community Programs		Senior Living - Enhanced Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Housing- New housing that incorporates a balanced land portfolio
Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Area First Nation Communities- Festival Destination	Boat Tours <ul style="list-style-type: none">with stops at local communities	Small business that can work with New Gold such as SMS or John Gavel rather than subbing out of Town						
Casino Hotel	Extend Waterfront Development	Entrepreneur Vertical Integration of Existing Business	Industry – Same value-added product (fibre insulation)		Enhanced Health Care			
Casino/Hotel with huge waterslide		Vacant Business Space West End Highway	Value Added Ag Products <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Food Pellets		Health Care Specialization			
Point Park Revitalization		Workforce <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Labour Shortage in Most Sectors-Training	Purchase Mill Property Once Demolished (or Before) to Repurpose that land.	High Tech Large Capacity Sawmill	Partnership with Area First Nations to Expand Health Care	Rebuild Town (Homes)	People Moving	
		Develop Waterfront to Maximize Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none">- such as restaurants, hotels- use lake more	Post-Secondary Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Research facilities-Partnership with schools	Transportation Goods In and Out		Hydroponic Farms (steam or solar generation) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- grow vegetables year round	Invite Developers to Build Housing Complexes	Post-Secondary Student Housing