

**SOUTH ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER COMMITTEE**

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2014

The regular meeting of the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee (SAHEDC) and the Community Development Officer Committee (CDO) was held at the Burk's Falls Municipal Office on Monday February 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Councillor Rod Blakelock, Councillor Rosalind Hall, Councillor Lewis Hodgson, Wendy Whitwell, Nicky Kunkel, David Gray, Tom Tota, Andrew Farnsworth.

Guests: Theresa Oliver. Regrets: Haley MacDonald.

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

Minutes

Moved by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Hall, be it resolved that the Committee accept the minutes from the regular meeting of December 16, 2014. Carried.

Farmers Market

Tom Tota advised the Committee that the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce would begin discussions with the Agricultural Society and other stakeholders to potentially seek a new venue for the Farmers Market. Some concerns raised were: prioritizing visibility and accessibility; vendors are currently under cover and would have to use tents if moving outdoors; and requiring a certain percentage of goods to be locally sourced. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the Agricultural Society on Thursday February 19, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Karl Crozier room of the Burk's Falls Arena, and also at the next Burk's Falls Council meeting on Thursday February 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Burk's Falls Township office. Tom will update the Committee at the next meeting.

Founding Mews

Theresa Oliver attended to discuss the next phase of the Founding Mews apartment buildings on Ontario Street. Under the current model, Phase 3 will see the construction of a third building that will provide affordable residence options for seniors and mature adults (age 45 and over) with accessibility needs. The building will also include event space, and commercial space including a hair salon and coffee shop for residents of the three apartment buildings.

Ms. Oliver requested a letter of support from the Committee in order to aid in funding requests. David Gray advised the Committee that both the Economic Development Plan and the Investment Readiness Study prioritize retirement and seniors accommodations in the downtown core. The Committee felt that they could support Ms. Oliver's proposal if the minimum age was increased to 65, in order to better meet the needs of the area's aging population. Andrew Farnsworth will draft such a letter for the next meeting.

Showcase Almaguin

David updated the Committee on the planning for the 2015 Showcase Almaguin event, to be held on March 23, 2015 at the Trout Creek Community Centre. David requested approval to allocate \$400 from the Community Initiatives budget to support the event.

Moved by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Hall, be it resolved that the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee contribute up to \$400 to support the 2015 Showcase Almaguin event.

Economic Development Plan

The Committee discussed and made final updates to the Economic Development Plan

Moved by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Hodgson, be it resolved that the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee accept the updated Economic Development Plan as revised.

Almaguin Region Economic Alliance - AREA

David brought forward the AREA terms of reference to formalize the responsibilities of the group of Almaguin economic development officers. AREA's focus will be to create sustainable economic benefits for the Almaguin Highlands Region.

Moved by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Hall, be it resolved that the South Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee (SAHEDC) accept the Almaguin Region Economic Alliance (AREA) terms of reference and support the Community Development Officer in representing SAHEDC on the AREA committee.

Hunter's Bay Radio

David discussed the Hunter's Bay Radio opportunity. The new show will be named "Celebrate Almaguin" and will focus on economic development and event related information in the Almaguin Highlands. David will be attending a meeting at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School to discuss recording the show in conjunction with the school's radio broadcasting department. David presented a list of suggestions for interview topics.

New Business

At the suggestion of Councillor Hodgson, and with the support of the Committee, David will contact Nu-Tech windows to discuss providing assistance with funding programs and growth potential.

Councillor Blakelock showed the Committee a sample of a laser-cut square of wood as an example for use in the 'Saw Bucks' campaign or similar.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SAHED-CDO Committee will be held on March 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Burk's Falls Township offices.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Blakelock, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.