

BURKS FALLS AND AREA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2016

The regular meeting of the Burks Falls and Area Community Economic Development Committee (BACED) was held at the Burk's Falls Municipal Office on Monday January 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Dave Gray, Tom Tota, Wendy Whitwell, Nicky Kunkel, Councillor Lewis Hodgson, Councillor Rosalind Hall, Councillor Rod Blakelock, Randy Cox, Dennis Sabourin,,

Guests: John Finley; Jason Tereszko, Northern Nerds; Morgan Richter and Kelli Ebbs (Muskoka North Good Food Co-op); Ben Cox from Revel Images.

Minutes

Moved by Denis Sabourin, seconded by Randy Cox, be it resolved that BACED Committee accept the minutes from the regular meeting of December 14, 2015, as amended. (Carried)

Presentation – Muskoka North Good Food Co-Op

Kelli Ebbs , Interim General Manager and Youth Intern Morgan Richter attended to present information on the Muskoka North Good Food Co-Op. The Co-Op is a non-profit social enterprise that is owned by the community which will be providing a 7,000 sq. ft. building for a grocery market in the west end of Huntsville. This is scheduled to open in the summer of 2016. A hand-out was provided.

This is a 1.2 million dollar project, partially funded by FedNor. One other source of funding is through Community Bonds, providing an opportunity for individuals to invest in their community.

The Business Plan defines the project to include: the retail grocery store; education; a commercial kitchen and cannery; a café and fitness/wellness centre. Relationships with food producers are being established. Eggs are difficult to purchase locally, as they have to be 'northern certified' and poultry marketing is difficult too. There are no problems with vegetables and meat can be purchased if certified as processed in a commercial facility.

Thoughts on the role of BACED were discussed: connection for information exchange adding to the geo mapping component; have Dave prepare letters of support from BACED and provide samples to the three municipalities (Co-Op will provide a template).

The Co-Op is operating now with "Pop Up" locations and on-line order forms.

Presentation – John Finley – Pitch-In Proposal

John Finley attended to follow up on his previous presentation on a roadside clean up initiative. The draft program, timelines, budget including a donation schedule (all attached) were discussed by the Committee. Mr. Finley is willing to co-ordinate the project considering what role the schools/municipalities already play.

The general consensus was that this sounds like a good community initiative that can build on Armour's well established Pitch-In program. It was asked if this type of project was within the mandate of this Committee or is it something the municipalities should lead. Should BACED be the official organization for Pitch-In? Armour Township has offered to look after the finances. Some concern was raised about approaching small businesses for another donation to the community, perhaps the corporate donations would be a preferable approach. Some logistics need to be addressed about how this project could proceed including the proposed BBQ for volunteers.

Jason Tereszko from Northern Nerds offered to produce a web site to help promote the event.

This proposal will be taken to the municipalities at the up-coming Tri-Council meeting, as part of Dave Gray's presentation. The budget and request for municipal donations will be discussed. Randy Cox from the Legacy Centre, generously offered to match any municipal donations. It appeared that the Committee needs a general understanding of how (or if) to proceed with this. The municipalities need to be asked if each will support this or if they would want to support it through BACED, but not both.

Mr. Finley is looking for letters of support from BACED Committee and/or the municipalities to use when approaching possible funders.

Logo Design – Ben Cox, Revel Images

Two sample logo designs for BARCED and two proposals for Villages of Almaguin were presented.

Suggestions for some modifications to the samples were made.

The revised logos will be forwarded by e-mail, for the Committee members to review. Dave Gray asked if everyone would 'reply to all' when making their comments.

Showcase Almaguin/FAB

Dave Gray and Rosalind Hall gave an up-date of the 2016 Showcase Almaguin and FAB plans for a regional collaboration between the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce (AHCC) and Almaguin Highlands Economic Development Committee (AHED), with assistance from Carole Mantha from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

Tentative plans are for a Friday/Saturday event in South River, likely to be held June 3, 4, 2016. The theme will be 'Local Products'.

The role of BACED for this event was discussed. Approximately \$400.00 has been allotted in the 2016 budget to provide financial assistance for this event. (Pending determination if this is an eligible expense in our funding agreement). It was suggested that Dave Gray should stay involved to assist with this event, but not lead.

Almaguin Highlands BR and E Up-date

The volunteers are doing an excellent job and ten interviews have been completed. The project is well underway.

Other / New Business

Future discussion: what is the Committee's opinion regarding membership in other organizations such as the Food Co-Op or the Chamber of Commerce etc.

Next Meeting

The next regular joint meeting of BACED Committee will be February 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Burk's Falls Office.

Adjournment

Moved by Lewis Hodgson that we adjourn at 8:30 p.m.