



**Brockton Economic Development Committee
Minutes
Monday, June 10, 2019
Best Western Hotel, Walkerton
9:30 a.m.**

Voting Members

Dan Gieruszak – Chairman	Present	.
Mayor Chris Peabody – Ex Officio	Absent	.
Dean Leifso – Councillor	Present	.
Kym Hutcheon – Councillor	Present	.
Randy Saunders – Business Improvement Area	Present	.
Alex Baran – Industry Representative	Present	.
Carl Kuhnke – Institutional Representative	Absent	.
Mike Dupuis – Agriculture Representative	Present	.

Non-Voting Members

Sonya Watson – CAO/Clerk	Absent	.
Paulette Peirol – Community Development Coordinator/Sec.	Present	.

Advisory Members

Rose Austin – Saugeen Economic Development Corporation	Absent	.
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Others Present

Alishia Oberle – Business Improvement Area	Present	.
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1. Call to Order/Attendance. D. Gieruszak called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by D. Leifso, Seconded by A. Baran

That the agenda of the June 10, 2019 Brockton Economic Development Committee meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

None

4. Delegations

None

5. Passing of Minutes

Moved by M. Dupuis, Seconded by K. Hutcheon

That the Brockton Economic Development Committee accept the minutes of the May 13, 2019 Economic Development Committee meeting.

Motion Carried

6. Business arising from the minutes

6.1 Housing and transportation ad hoc committee. The CDC will send out a meeting notice to members within the next 10-14 days.

6.2 Nuclear Innovation Institute STEM Pilot Project. D. Gieruszak said Bruce Power will be making a public announcement today regarding the project in Walkerton. Students at the Mayor's breakfast voiced support for more STEM programming here, which was encouraging. Discussions to date have been extremely positive about plans for bursaries and internships for this program next year. D. Gieruszak noted that STEM is required in a variety of industries, from nuclear to agriculture to aerospace.

6.3 Energizer Tour. D. Gieruszak noted the plant is 200,000 square feet and that the owner may now be open to subdividing the space. It could be a great site for cannabis production or a hemp training facility, but would require rezoning. Some municipalities are including cannabis production as a permitted use in all of their industrial zoning.

7. Business Items

7.1 Mayor's Breakfast

The second 2019 Mayor's breakfast was held June 10 at the Best Western Hotel with about 60 people, including students, in attendance. EDC members also attended. Several said they would like to see a keynote speaker at future events to attract and motivate people, perhaps someone from the agricultural sector. M. Dupuis said he could provide some names. K. Hutcheon said there should be a course for new residents moving to Brockton from the city, to orient them to rural practices (such as manure spreading at night).

R. Saunders said it might be good to host a breakfast in Port Elgin, or at least invite people from that area to our Mayor's breakfast, to increase awareness about housing and opportunities in our community. He noted that Clancy is building a new subdivision in Kincardine as that's where the demand is.

Tina Rupert, Regional Manager of VPI employment services, expressed interest in joining the Brockton EDC as an advisory member.

Moved by M. Dupuis, Seconded by K. Hutcheon

That the Brockton Economic Development Committee invite Tina Rupert, Regional Manager of VPI Working Solutions, to become an advisory member of the committee.

Motion carried.

7.2 Volunteer Appreciation

Brockton's first Volunteer Appreciation event was held May 29, 2019 at the Walkerton arena. About 40 people attended, and the event included training in municipal Code of Conduct regulations, which committee volunteers are bound by.

R .Saunders said it was a fantastic first-time event. EDC members would like to see more people in attendance, and there was a suggestion to meet with heads of committees to find out how to make the event more attractive to volunteers.

A. Baran felt it should expand to include volunteer groups that are not Council directed.

7.3 Labour Force Diversification – Next Steps

The municipality is meeting with Ivey Immigration & Employment Services Inc. to find out what it can do to assist local companies in hiring workers from outside Canada.

ESL training and mentorship programs are two programs committee members cited, as well as assistance for those hosting newcomers.

7.4 Larsen & Shaw Tour/Special Business Recognition July 8 at 1 pm.

The EDC will present Larsen & Shaw with a special recognition on July 8th to mark their 100 years in business in Walkerton, followed by a tour of the facility. This will replace our regularly monthly meeting for July.

8. Reports

8.1 BIA Report – Alishia Oberle

The BIA is working on new promotions for summer, including radio ads and outdoor market days. It is working with the municipality on its financials and housekeeping items.

The BIA has applied for a grant program called Digital Mainstreet, which offers up to \$10,000 to assist downtown businesses with their social media and digital marketing. Training and equipment is also included.

8.2 Community Development Coordinator Report – Paulette Peirol

Brockton's Mayor and CDC met with Chris Sullivan of Applus, a new business in Walkerton specializing in non-destructive testing in the energy sector, including nuclear. He was appreciative of the welcome, and said he is hoping to build a training facility at the Trillium Court site in future.

The municipality continues to receive inquiries about cannabis production – four in the past 2 months. It's an ever changing field with many eager to get into the market.

The Saugeen Student Start-up Program is fully funded thanks to three local sponsors – the Walkerton Rotary Club, the Walkerton Optimist Club and McIntee Realty. We are awaiting student applications and have planned training sessions for the young entrepreneurs at Hanover's Launch Pad facility.

The CDC is working with Ivey Immigration, Larsen & Shaw and Price Schonstrum regarding newcomer attraction in Brockton and becoming a more welcoming community. We will provide information about housing, transportation, services and our community video. They would like this to be available online, readily accessible to prospective new hires.

Brockton hosted Bruce County's Regional Economic Development meeting at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre on May 23, 2019. It included a tour of the facility and planned tour of our downtown, which was cancelled due to rain.

Our new tourism website, VisitWalkerton.com, is launching June 11, 2019. Brockton staff have worked hard to make it comprehensive of all Brockton offerings. We plan to follow up with a VisitBrockton.ca site in the fall.

The Village of Cargill is holding an open house and launch of its Visitor Centre and new Margaret's Mercantile artisan's co-op on Friday June 28, 2019. It received funding from OPG to help cover the cost of a new mural. The Municipality is working to help secure other funding for the tourism initiatives there.

Brockton staff and Council toured the former Energizer plant and discussed options for the facility.

9. Business Recognitions

9.1 The following businesses are marking milestones:

Partners Physiotherapy – 25 years in business
The Old Garage – New ownership
Tim Horton's - New Ownership
Best Western Hotel – New Ownership
Home Town Tire & Service - New Business, opening July 1, 2019

R Saunders said the Best Western is a unique success story, with 50 local investors making it happen. All sold their shares in the recent sale.

10. Finance/Budget

CEO absent, no report.

11. New Business

K. Hutcheon has completed extensive renovations to the Chepstow Inn, the oldest operating hotel in Bruce County, creating three new rooms for clients. She is seeing high demand for them among contractors and Bruce Power workers here during the work-week.

It was suggested we hold a future EDC meeting at Chepstow Inn, and perhaps another at Maple Court Retirement Residence.

12. Adjournment

Moved by D. Leifso, Seconded by R. Saunders
That the Brockton Economic Development Committee adjourn the June 10, 2019 meeting.
Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Next meeting Monday, July 8, 2019 @ 1 pm – Larsen & Shaw Tour