



**Brockton Economic Development Committee
Minutes
Monday, December 9, 2019
Brockton Municipal Office, Walkerton
12:00 pm**

Voting Members

Dan Gieruszak – Chairman	Absent	.
Mayor Chris Peabody – Ex Officio	Present	.
Dean Leifso – Councillor	Present	.
Kym Hutcheon – Councillor	Present	.
Alishia Oberle – Business Improvement Area	Present	.
Carl Kuhnke – Institutional Representative	Present	.
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	.
Tina Rupert – VPI Working Solutions	Absent	.

Others Present

1. Call to Order/Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda

Moved by C Kuhnke, Seconded by A. Oberle

That the agenda of the December 9, 2019 Brockton Economic Development Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

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

None

4. Delegations

None

5. Passing of Minutes

5.1 Brockton Economic Development Committee Minutes, November 18, 2019

Moved by C. Kuhnke, Seconded by M. Dupuis

That the minutes of the November 18, 2019 Brockton Economic Development Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

5.2 Business Arising from the Minutes

6. Business Items

6.1 Walkerton Industrial Park Sign Update – Paulette Peirol

All businesses within the Walkerton Industrial Park on Industrial Road were contacted by the Municipality and were very pleased to hear that we are updating the sign. Each has agreed that \$250 a year is a fair price to pay for advertising on the sign, so the Municipality can recover its costs within 10 years, at the most ($8 \times \$250 = \$2,000/\text{year}$).

Brockton staff will obtain several quotes for construction of the new sign, in accordance with Brockton's procurement policies.

6.2 EDC Meeting Schedule for 2020

P. Peirol distributed a draft EDC meeting schedule for 2020, which was approved with two small changes. (January meeting will be on the 13th so it doesn't conflict with the ROMA conference, and the December meeting will be on the 14th to allow for holidays).

A revised schedule will be emailed to all EDC members, along with meeting invites in Outlook.

7. Reports

7.1 BIA Report – Alishia Oberle

- Digital Main Street program going well, with over 30 businesses participating. Many are working through the Digital Transformation Grant (\$2500) which ends on December 31st. Laura Girdler will continue working with businesses in the new year until her contract ends on January 31st.
- BIA held its AGM last week, elected new board member Nicole Schneider from Flowers By Uss. Over 40 people attended. Thanks to the Mayor, Councillors and businesses that attended. There was good dialogue about some of the issues members are having. Some were directed at the Municipality, eg: problems with the new sidewalks, signage regarding bicycles on sidewalks, and including all shops in photos of public events.
- Shop Walkerton and Win continues to Dec. 20th. Last winner was from Port Elgin. More ballots to date than at this point last year.

7.2 Community Development Coordinator Report – Paulette Peirol

- Update on Grey-Bruce Economic Development meeting, including positive news on funding for transportation initiative by Grey County (which should benefit Walkerton), and newcomer settlement services.
- Met with Olga Gura of Rural Pathways for Newcomer Women in Grey Bruce regarding their programs and employer survey, which we'll forward to Brockton businesses.
- Applus Open House, well attended, thank-you from company
- Saugeen Connects video update and employer outreach re: job opportunities for newcomers

7.3 Saugeen Economic Development Corporation Report – Rose Austin

None

8. Business Recognitions

- Applus – Open House Nov. 28, attended by Mayor, CAO, Councillors Hutcheon and Adams and BIA representatives. Applus was very appreciative
- Sunnyside Grill (new business) and A&R Music (10-year anniversary) recognized by EDC members on Dec. 3
- MacDuff Motor Sales and Freiburger Welding are both coming upon their 75th anniversaries

Mayor Peabody noted that Whispering Pines golf course will be celebrating its 95th anniversary soon. Staff will follow up with them, as well as MacDuff Motors and Freiburger Welding.

ACTION: Business Recognitions for Serendipity Eatery and Top Knotch Upholstery will take place Tuesday, Dec. 17th from 10-11 a.m., beginning at Serendipity. Staff will send invites to EDC members.

9. Finance/Budget

Carried to next meeting.

10. New Business

M. Dupuis discussed hemp farming for CBD and the experiences of farmers in the U.S. He said there doesn't appear to be a strong enough market for CBD oil alone, that markets would have to be sustained for other hemp products as well.

Mayor Peabody raised concerns about the Hillside Motel in Walkerton being used for subsidized housing for residents from outside Brockton. He will be meeting with police and housing authorities to discuss the issue.

A. Oberle said Walkerton shopkeepers were reluctant to hold sidewalk sales during the summer because of high rates of theft from their businesses. There have also been reports of thefts from contractors near the downtown.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, January 13, 2019 at the Brockton Municipal Office at 12 noon