

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS
Economic Development & Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

PRESENT: **CHAIR (S):** Edie FAIRBURN
 MEMBERS: Harold CRABS; Cathy HICKEY; Merri-Ann HOBBS; John MOONEY; Robert MARTEL
 ABSENT: Rodney JUNKALA; Thoma CRABS
 STAFF: Amanda ST. MICHEL

Opening

The regular meeting of the Economic Development and Community Services Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on September 19th, 2023, by Edie, Fairburn.

Economic Development

A REGIONAL EDO INITIATIVES

Fall career fair- the Regional Economic Development Officer will be organizing a fall career fair tentatively on October 5th and 7th. This event is in collaboration with LAMBAC and employment options. Once more information is available the event will be advertised on all Township platforms.

B GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- All items as applied for under the RED grant have been purchased. The 30 pole brackets have been delivered and installation is being coordinated with Espanola Hydro. The 33 veteran's banners and 12 poppy banners have been ordered through OJ Graphix and delivery is estimated for the end of September-early October.
- The New Horizons grant is due on September 28th, the Deputy Clerk will put an application together to apply for equipment to better deliver seniors exercise programs such as a tv, speaker system and microphone. Additional exercise equipment such as yoga mats and blocks may be also included dependent on the recommendation of the instructor.
- The Resilient Communities grant is due on October 25th. Discussion of applying for a sunshade structure at Memorial Park or the arena to replace the pavilion at the arena. The Deputy Clerk will collaborate with the Parks & Recreation department to determine which location would be most suitable.

C TSSR BUSINESS COMMUNITY UPDATES/OPPORTUNITIES

- The discussion regarding housing was deferred to the next meeting.
- The Deputy Clerk provided an update on a meeting had with the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail Adventure 2024 representative. The organization is looking to potentially stay in the Township during the 2024 ride, this would bring approximately 150 pedal bike riders into the community for evening activities and lodging. The Waterfront Regeneration Trust executive director is to put a proposal together for a potential donation from the Township.
- The committee briefly discussed the Domtar shut down and the implications it may have on our community and neighbouring ones.

D DONATIONS/COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS

- Christmas in Massey Event-the event organizers have requested the Township arrange the tree lighting again at Heritage Park with a new addition of Christmas music be played, and that the Mayor provide a speech before the lighting.
 - The Deputy Clerk has discussed with the Parks & Recreation Coordinator that they will be able to set up the tree. The Mayor has agreed to speak but asked that a speaker/lighting system be in place as last year it was quite dark and residents had

trouble hearing. The Deputy Clerk will arrange for this setup, any funds needed to support it will come from the economic development materials, parts, and supplies account.

- The committee recommends that \$200 be set aside to purchase a donation for the Christmas basket giveaway, however they do not wish to register in the scavenger hunt.

E TSSR STRATEGIC PLAN

- The committee reviewed the draft Strategic Plan survey. The “Around and About” will be added to question #5 and question #7 will have a text box added to allow for comments on additional services not noted. Once these changes are made the survey is to be launched from October 10th to November 3rd.
- The survey will be digital through survey monkey and paper copies will also be distributed that are to be returned to the Township office.
- Advertising- all Township platforms will be used to promote the survey (social media, website, posters etc.), the committee would like a full-page ad posted in the Around and About, however a mailout will not be used.
- Discussion regarding whether a person could submit the survey multiple times through survey monkey. The Deputy Clerk will investigate this; however, it may be the case for the survey to stay anonymous.

Community Services

F COMMUNITY AESTHETICS

- The Deputy Clerk provided an update that the 2024 Flower Tender has been awarded to Martin Family Farm at the cost of \$1,792.00 + HST and that the Parks & Recreation department will be taking over all future flower tenders.
- The committee reviewed the RFP for the Decorative Pole Lights- two companies provided options, Dekra-Lite and Classic Displays, within the established budget, and provided examples that could use the existing brackets and ones that would require new ones.
 - Espanola Hydro had requested that the existing brackets be used to reduce installation time and wear on the poles.
 - The committee recommended using Dekra-Lite over Classic Displays based on the designs available for the existing brackets. Designs chosen were 8 “double candy cane” lights at \$995.00 each, with LED rope light and 9 “blizzard snowflake” lights at \$725.00 each, with C7 bulbs.

After meeting notes:

The blizzard snowflakes can't use the existing brackets on the poles. The committee was polled on what they would like to do. The options were:

- 1. Buy all 17 “double candy cane”*
- 2. Ask Espanola Hydro if they would install the new brackets for the 9 “blizzard snowflake” and use the existing brackets for the 8 “double candy canes”*
- 3. Purchase 8 “double candy canes” and 9 Christmas trees (indicate option 1 or 2)*

When requesting quotes for the 3 options noted above, Dekra-Lite recommended that if the “blizzard snowflake” and “double candy cane” option be picked that one design be installed on each side of the street instead of alternated on the same side of the street due to a difference in brightness. The provider would worry that the snowflake design would be brighter than the candy cane and therefore make the candy canes look faded in between.

As of Friday September 22nd, committee responses were mixed with no majority and therefore a report has been presented to council to determine a style, to order in time to potentially have the new lights this year.

G AGE-FRIENDLY PROGRAMING

- Discussion- the seniors exercise program run by Susie Gross has started again with 2 classes offered to seniors on Wednesdays. There is demand by participants to run additional classes during the week, the committee would need to budget accordingly, and the instructor availability determined.
- The committee recommends that the Age Friendly Sub-committee be established again and interest to participate be advertised for.

H MUNICIPAL EVENTS/INITIATIVES

- The committee reviewed the 2023 MyCatch Summer Fishing Tournament wrap up report. Although only 38 anglers registered, the committee believes the event could be successful with more advertising outreach and would like to include it into the 2024 operating budget for another year.

I COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Local Government Week 2023-The committee was informed of the Local Government Week Information sessions to be marketed as “Township Talks” that were approved at the September 13th Council meeting. Each department will provide a small presentation on their operations, current exciting projects, committee information etc. It is meant to be a initial step towards better communication/transparency with the public.
 - These are information presentations only and no question/answer period will take place. Should participants have questions they are to contact the appropriate staff member after the event. Inappropriate conduct towards staff members will not be tolerated, should any occur, the event will be shut down.
 - Sessions have been confirmed for October 17th-Massey Communiuty Centre, October 18th- Webbwood Eagles and October 18th- Walford Community Centre. All sessions will be from 1-3pm, the committee felt that an evening time slot should have been provided. It was noted should these sessions be successful; an evening event could be explored in the future.
 - Each event will highlight a local business to provide refreshments, the Little Brew Café will be supplying the Massey session, the Walford Community Club will be doing the Walford session and the Webbwood session refreshments are still to be determined.
 - These events are to be funded through existing funds in the Economic Development special programming expenses account.

Other Business

J BUDGET

- Discussion regarding the 2024 Operating Budget due September 27th. Items to budge for included: potential veterans banners additions, a swag line, an increase to the advertising and promotions account, funds for festivals and other cultural events, a township newsletter and other beautification efforts.
- Potential capital budget items are still to be discussed.

Recommendations to Council

- Decorative Pole Lights- staff report provided to council.
- That the Age Friendly Sub-Committee be established again and that positions be advertised for.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 17th, 2023, in Council Chambers, at 6:30pm or at the call of the chair.