



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills
Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting**

MINUTES

February 25, 2021

8:00 a.m.

E-participation

Committee Present: Deputy Mayor Minnille
Councillor Guerard
Councillor Ferguson
Scott McLellan
Mary Rozenberg
Ron MacMeekin
Greg Smith
Dawn McGeachy
Noreen Young

Staff Present: Tiffany MacLaren, Community Economic & Cultural Coordinator
Dawn McDonald

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Scott McLellan, called the meeting to order at 8:04 am

Dawn McDonald, acting Recording Secretary, in the absence of Bonnie Ostrom

**B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE
THEREOF**

None

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Mayor Minnille

Seconded by Councillor Ferguson

CARRIED

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Greg Smith

Seconded by Mary Rozenberg

CARRIED

E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

F. REPORTS

F.1 Draft Municipal Film Policy

Tiffany MacLaren, Community Economic and Cultural Co-ordinator provided a brief overview of the Municipal Film policy, including the application form, fee schedule and code of conduct. Members were invited to provide comments either verbally at the meeting or through email. The Committee engaged in a fulsome discussion, providing comments and suggestions on communication tools, traffic plans, levels of approval, by-laws, municipal standards, insurance and areas of responsibility.

The final version of the Municipal Film policy, along with the associated documentation, will be brought back to the Committee before it is forwarded to Council for final approval.

F.2 Survey Results - Business Retention Project

Valley Heartland has been asked to provide an update on Business Retention and Expansion and it is hopeful that a representative will agree to come to a C&EDC meeting in March or April to talk about strategy objectives. Deputy Mayor Minnille also offered to reach out to the County for updates.

The merits and benefits gained from the survey were discussed as well as what initiatives are planned going forward. Dovetailing these results into the Community and Economic Development plan was also suggested.

The Committee received the report information.

F.3 Explore Mississippi Mills Visitor Guide Discussion

Committee members were asked which direction they would like to take with the 2021 Explore Mississippi Mills Visitor Guide. In previous years the

guide had been published by Metroland; however, due to recent downsizing Metroland is no longer taking on projects of this nature.

As the year was not identified on the 2020 guide, it was agreed that it should be reused for 2021 and that consideration be given to including an insert with updates for the current year. For next year's edition, it was suggested that James Naismith be highlighted and that it be published and ready for distribution in January 2022.

G. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

None

H. ROUND TABLE

H.1 Pakenham Updates

The Pakenham General Store is up for sale. The ski hill and multi purpose trails have been busy.

(See also Item H.4.)

H.2 Internet Initiative - Update

The theme for the 2021 ROMA conference was the Necessity for Broadband Internet. There has been lots of discussion and activity at the various levels of government but no concrete decisions have been made.

For those in rural communities and places where existing services are unreliable, Starlink (www.starlink.com) is a new option that provides internet to areas with little or no connectivity. They are launching more satellites and the connectivity will only get better but there are a limited number of spaces per community.

H.3 Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail (OVRT)

Although it is recognized that the Snowmobile Club grooms the trail and that it is a multi use trail, not all snowmobiles are abiding by the 20 km/hr posted speed limit and the number of perpetrators seems to be increasing. Concerns were also raised regarding the size of some vehicles on the trail; however, it was confirmed that at present there are no restrictions. The OPP do monitor the trail and those who violate the rules can be reported. The County also has a complaints line which is another option available for reporting unsafe activity on the trail.

H.4 Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Grant

The Healthy Communities Initiative is a \$31 million investment from the Government of Canada to transform public spaces in response to Covid-19. This program is offering start up money, in the form of government grants, for grassroots projects that promote healthy initiatives.

The library, in partnership with the municipality, is applying for funding to create Wi-Fi hotspots across the municipality which will allow individuals without internet connectivity to access free Wi-Fi throughout the different communities.

The Pakenham Trail Working Group, which reports through C&EDC, would also like to partner with the municipality to apply for funding through this grant program. A letter of support is going to Council for approval at the March 2, 2021 meeting.

There is no limit on the number of applications that a municipality can support if there is only one primary application directly from the municipality. A second opportunity to apply will be coming in May and it was suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee may want to consider applying.

H.5 Almonte Fair

There will be an on-line auction starting soon in support of the Almonte Fair.

H.6 Condolences

The Chair of the C&EDC Committee spoke of the passing of Everett E. Colby. He expressed admiration for all of the good work that Everett did for the Community and offered heartfelt sympathy to Dawn McGeachy and her family on behalf of the committee members.

I. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Planning Committee - At its meeting on January 12, 2021 Council approved the committee terms of reference for the Mississippi Mills Bicentennial Advisory Committee and Working Groups.

The Clerk is working on a report for submission to Council. An advertisement for interested residents to apply for a position on the Bicentennial Planning Committee is to follow. Items for the Bicentennial Planning Committee, submitted through the C&EDC Committee, will be forwarded for consideration at their first meeting.

J. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS

None

K. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 8:00 am

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Ferguson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Minnille

CARRIED

Bonnie Ostrom, Recording
Secretary