
The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers

Economic Development Meeting

January 17, 2011

Attending

Susan Sonnenburg
Pat Hnatuik
Jayson Stewart
Klara Kluge
Kelli Hansson

Marc Lefebvre
Charlie Smith
Thoma Miedema
Karen Gerrard

Budget

Christmas Lights – The Economic Development Committee would like to purchase an additional 6 decorative street lights for Christmas, 2011. I will contact Hydro One to find out if it is possible to install two in Walford. If it isn't possible, the EDC would like to erect a Christmas tree with lights at the Walford Community Centre, and install 4 additional Christmas Streetlights in Webbwood.

Flowers – The EDC would like to allocate an additional \$1,500 for flower boxes and flowers, to be installed at identified businesses within the Township. One idea for these flower boxes was to get the students of Espanola High School to construct them. A concern that was raised is that in order to stand up to the wear and tear of installing, moving and storing these boxes, they will have to be of industrial strength or they will only last a short period of time. The business owners would be responsible for the maintenance of these flowers. Klara Kluge will determine which types of flowers will be best for these boxes, as well as for Heritage Park, the flowerbed across from Burk's Shell, and the Township Office. There was a discussion regarding flowerbeds at the entrance to the municipality signs. Due to the fact that there is no water supply at these signs, decorative bushes would be most suitable for these locations. Requests for Proposals will be sent out to John's Flower Shop & Greenhouse, Martin's Greenhouse, Baumann's Greenhouse and Rainbow Gardens.

Brochure Update

There are approximately 2000 copies of the Tourism Guide/Business Directory in stock, which will suffice for the upcoming summer season. We need to get started on the 2012 edition. I will contact our previous partners, as well as Whitefish Falls and Espanola, in an effort to expand our booklet even more. When we have the 2012 edition printed, we will also request the directory in a PDF format, allowing all partners to post the directory on their websites. We believe this will also benefit us when approaching Community Futures Development Corporations for funding, as it is an upgrade to our municipal websites.

We have approximately 200 copies of the "Explore" brochure left in stock. Upon review, the EDC would like to add an additional \$700.00 to the advertising and publications budget line to redesign this brochure. Jayson Stewart has offered to organize the artwork for this effort.

Website

The website is in need of revamping. Councilor Stewart has offered to take the lead in this project, utilizing the talents of EHS students looking for community hours.

Farmgate Tour & Map

LAMBAC has funding up to \$3000.00 available for this brochure/tour to assist with this project. Espanola is working towards hosting a farmers market on the Saturday morning of the long weekends throughout the summer at the complex, and LAMBAC would see this as a regional project if we were to advertise Espanola's potential farmers market dates, as well as listing the hours of operation for the farmers markets occurring on Manitoulin Island. There was concern expressed that there are brochures that already address local producers needs. I will bring copies of the existing brochures to our next meeting so that EDC members may determine if these brochures address the needs of our local producers, or if we should proceed as planned with our own map and listing of artisans, food growers and crafters. This brochure would also be beneficial in creating an inventory of producers in the Township.

Farmers Market

There is a great deal of interest in establishing a farmers market within the Township. We need to ascertain that there is an adequate amount of producers that wish to participate. Councilors Lefebvre, Smith and Hnatuik will meet with local producers and bring back information to the EDC for our next meeting.

Business After Hours Event (LAMBAC)

The EDC's role in this event is to approach local business owners and invite them out to a presentation on business planning. The main theme will be business networking within the community. We have been asked to make tickets to this event available at the Township office.

LAMBAC Regional Strategies

LAMBAC has completed their updated Strategic Plan. They have identified the following projects as regional initiatives:

Farmgate Brochure/Tour

Seniors Housing Feasibility Study (LaCloche Region) – FedNor and NOHFC will both fund feasibility studies providing they are regional in focus and have a good chance of leading to long-term projects involving private investors. Karen Gerrard informed the group that DSSAB might have already a feasibility study. I will research this further prior to our next meeting.

Other Business

The EDC is looking for members from Walford and Webbwood. We have advertised in our Community Page in the Mid North Monitor and the Spring Newsletter. Councilor Stewart is going to mention this at the Webbwood rink meeting later this month as well.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21 @ 7:00 pm.