

Wingham BIA Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 23, 2021 6:30 p.m. - Hot Stove Lounge

**Present:** Ryan Fergusson Doug Kuyvenhoven, Dave Tiffin, Trevor Seip

**Guests:** Paul Heffer, Kelsey Bent - Wingham Advance Times

**Regrets:** Annette Monsma, Lisa Hearnden, Jim Synder

1. Welcome and call to order by chairman Dave Tiffin at 6:39 pm
2. Public Input - none
3. Approval of Agenda - Motion by Ryan. Second by Trevor. Approved
4. Declaration conflicts of interest - none noted
5. Approval of Minutes - Motion by Trevor to approve the Aug 19th minutes. Seconded by Ryan. Approved.
6. Delegations - none
7. Financial Report - Doug reported on the financial statements. Cash in bank is \$54,000. YTD income \$7400 and expenses of \$23,000. All expense are on budget. Account Receivable is in great shape. Just four businesses owing on sidewalk sales and all are expected to pay. Cheques written - just two. Motion by Doug to approve the financial statements as presented and the cheques written. Seconded by Trevor. Approved.
8. Chair Update
  1. Howson Dam - Council made a decision to decommission the dam and naturalize the area around river.
  2. Walking Bridge - Problem with graffiti on the old railway bridge. It needs to be cleaned off. Doug will follow up with trail committee, works dept, and possibly line up volunteers to clean it up. We were not sure whether or not it had been reported to police. Dave will check if it has been, and if not will report it.
9. Council Update - Trevor
  1. Development Charges bylaw updated and approved. One change is that development charges will now also be on non-residential construction.
  2. Gypsy Lane in Blyth - Public input and council discussion about the request to change the name. There was no decision to change or review the name.
  3. COVID vaccine policy implementation is a big ongoing job for council and staff.
  4. Police board - The OPP now have a location at the Madill School with an agreement in place with the Avon Maitland School board. Trevor stressed the importance of reporting crimes or suspicious activities to the OPP.
10. BIA Committees & Liaisons
  1. Retail Committee - Ally was unavailable
    1. Christmas promotion - unknown who will take the lead on this, hopefully one or more of the retailers will step up for this.
  2. Festival of Lanterns
    1. Lisa has contacted the town re: permit
    2. Mark McDougall is working on plans. All going well it will be proceeding this year on Oct 29th.
  3. Curb Appeal - Doug
    1. Need to get planning with Lisa on Christmas greenery and the gnomes.

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4. Communications - Dave
  1. Website - some articles have been posted regarding vaccine passports.
  2. Mailchimp - updates are sent out as needed
  3. Business Directory - Dave will add and update businesses as needed.
5. Economic Development - Dave
  1. A RED grant has been submitted by NH Township for tourism.
  2. Tourism map - Doug presented a 3D map that was done for Midland/ Pentetang with the idea to develop one like this for North Huron. There was support from those present to pursue this further. Dave will take a sample map to the next EcDev meeting where there is also a Blyth BIA rep and see if there is support from EcDev and Blyth BIA. Kelsey will take a sample map to her manager of the Wingham Advance Times to see if they would take this one as an advertising revenue generator. The 3D map with paid advertisers on it can be a revenue generator.
  3. Tourism - Dave raised the point that Tourism is the one thing we can promote and grow for North Huron. We have the Blyth Theatre, Wingham Town Hall Theatre, North Huron Museum (hopefully), Wingham trail, Alice Munro, and more. EcDev is hoping to promote and grow tourism in NH.
6. Wingham Community Connectors - Trevor - Not a whole lot to report. Schools opening discussion about the Umbrella project. Discussed looking at their mandate.
7. LED sign update - Doug reported that the team (Dave, Lisa, Doug) received updated quotes from the vendors and awarded the contract to Cox Signs. Ontario Hydro approval has been received for running power from the McDonalds corner under the highway to the LED sign location on the Tim Horton side where the LED sign will be located. Expecting to see the work proceed in the next few weeks and the sonotubes and concrete bases in place ready for the sign to be delivered. Due to supply chain issues it could be a several months before Cox Signs has the LED sign built and ready to install.
11. Theatre Update
  1. Some discussion about the theatre. Shows are starting to get booked.
12. NH Museum Committee Update - presentation to council could happen on Oct 18th. The committee will be looking for lots of public presence and support at the meeting.
13. Other business.
  1. New Businesses - Sunnyside Grille. The Riverview Restaurant is a work in progress. Teeny Tiny Tots is opening across from Lone Wolfe. Site development plan has been approved for the property to the north of the McDonalds. The old Petropolis location has been leased to a new business coming to Wingham. Lots of growth!
  2. Christmas Parade - The Lions Club is planning a drive-by Santa Claus parade for Nov 27th.
14. Next BIA Board Meeting - Thursday, Oct 21 at 6:30 pm at the Hot Stove Lounge.
15. Motion by Trevor to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ryan. Approved at 8:03 pm.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_