

November 19, 2025

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025 the Economic Development Committee held an in-person and Zoom Meeting, livestreamed to YouTube.

Present:

Mayor LaValley
Councillor Joe Florent
Councillor Joan Kuiack
Councillor Shawn Pigeon, Chair
Councillor Laurie Siydock
Councillor Bill Rodnick
Barney Baker, South Algonquin Business Alliance (SABA)
Leah Geddes

Regrets:

Kimberly Gorman
Nadia Pruett
Councillor Sandra Collin

Staff Present:

Tracy Cannon, Deputy CAO, Deputy Clerk-Planner

Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor Pigeon called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Kuiack
To adopt the agenda as circulated.

Seconded by: Mayor LaValley

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST or a General Nature Thereof: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Resignation of Member

- Councillor Pigeon advised that, due to her schedule, Nadia Pruett has submitted her resignation. Consensus was to recommend Jim Hollett to Council. B. Baker will follow up with Mr. Hollett and a resolution will be brought to the December 3, 2025 Council Meeting.

Update – Key Initiatives from June 18th Meeting.

- Branding
 - SABA has received a grant to hire a photographer to take pictures of South Algonquin and are open to work with staff to create booklets/pamphlets.
 - Website changes to include places to see and do.
 - Committee to work on ten best spots in South Algonquin.
- Trails - ATV/Snowmobile and Trestle Trail
 - Councillor Pigeon provided an update on the trail into Algonquin Park and noted that he will contact the Park Superintendent for further information prior to the next meeting. Mayor LaValley added that nothing has been confirmed with DNSSAB regarding an easement for the small portion of the trail adjacent to the Daycare.
 - Councillor Florent provided an update on his ongoing work with Ontario Parks to find a solution for stakeholders and trail users of the Opeongo and Madawaska River Parks, which have recently been reclassified from non-operational to operational. He noted that some trails have already been closed or are scheduled to close as of January 1.
 - Leah Geddes provided an update on the Opeongo Snowbirds' work on the trail system. The club secured approximately \$130,000–\$140,000 in funding, with most of the investment benefiting trails in South Algonquin. Volunteers have completed work on the Opeongo Bridge, repaired a culvert - B-Trail has been cleared. Repairs to the Green Bridge on the B-Trail are scheduled to begin next Monday, requiring a full closure for two weeks. A potential detour is being considered, but it has not yet been confirmed.
There have also been some closures: the southern portion of 159 East will be closed to Spectacle Lake, although access remains available from the west side, which was recently cleared following the storm. Leah extended appreciation to the volunteers, noting that the trails could not remain open without their efforts.

It was also noted that the Turtle By-Pass Trail will no longer be maintained by the Opeongo Snowbirds.

- Housing Development – Mayor LaValley provided an update on housing, noting that she does not yet have any formal information to share and that certain matters cannot be disclosed at this time. She mentioned an initiative launched by the Municipality of Temagami and offered to provide the committee with information about the program. The information is also available on their website for those who wish to review it. She hopes to have a housing update ready for the December Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Development Intern Position – T. Cannon provided an update on the position. Full-time, 12-month Internship, 35 hours/week. The person will support tourism and economic development projects and community events, housing, conduct research, prepare reports and help secure funding. The job closes on November 28th. The position was supported through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and is funded through the Workforce Development Program with some eligibility criteria. The candidate will be required to successfully complete the Sustainability Northern Ontario Economic Development Course.

SABA Request to Present to Committee- Written Request Circulated

- A thank you to all involved with the secure of the funding for the accessible playground in Whitney. A great asset to the community.
- Once the repairs to the Highway 60 Bridge are completed, a review of highway signage for JR Booth Park and other areas within South Algonquin will be conducted.
- Staff will follow up with the Works Superintendent on the request to keep the Galeairy Lake Trail cleared of snow.
- There will be some work ahead to figure out the placement of the new accessible playground structure in Whitney.

Economic Development Work Plan – Refer to Terms of Reference

- The committee requests \$25,000 to support Economic Development, with an initial focus on branding, including brochures, pamphlets, and updating the website. Staff will get a quote from the web designer and someone from the committee will seek a quote for the brochures/pamphlets.

NEXT MEETING: January 21, 2026. Time will be determined pending the need for a Committee of Adjustment Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Rodnick

Seconded by: Councillor Siydock

To adjourn the Economic Development Committee Meeting of November 19, 2025 at 11:02 a.m.

Councillor S. Pigeon

Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer