January 21, 2026
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026 the Economic Development Committee held an in-person and Zoom Meeting, livestreamed to YouTube.

Present:
Mayor LaValley
Councillor Collins
Councillor Joe Florent
Councillor Joan Kuiack
Councillor Shawn Pigeon, Chair
Councillor Laurie Siydock
Councillor Bill Rodnick
Barney Baker
Leah Geddes-Zoom
Kimberly Gorman- Zoom
Jim Hollett

Staff Present:
Bryan Martin CAO/Clerk-Treasurer - Zoom
Tracy Cannon, Deputy CAO, Deputy Clerk-Planner
Stephanie Russell, Community Development Intern

Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor Pigeon called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: None

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Moved by: Councillor Kuiack **Seconded by: Mayor LaValley**
To adopt the agenda as circulated.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST or a General Nature Thereof: None

INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERN
- Councillor Pigeon introduced Stephanie Russell, the Community Development Intern, along with Jim Hollett, who recently joined the Economic Development Committee.

PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS
Jeremy Beamer, Jim Karygiannis, and Zulfiqar Mooraj of Principal GTA Strategies delivered a presentation to the Committee introducing a proposed Waste Management Solution. They have approached municipalities across Ontario inquiring if there is interest in providing lands, approximately three acres that could accommodate the development of a waste processing plant at no charge to the municipality.
As the project is in its early stages, and require Ministry approval, they are requesting that municipalities that may have interest enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.
A resolution will be brought forward at the next Council meeting for consideration to proceed with further research into the project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update – Key Initiatives

Advertising
- Councillor Pigeon has obtained pricing for the brochures/pamphlets. The Committee to bring forward their ideas and input on the desired content at the next meeting.
- Staff to contact RTO12 – Explorers Edge to investigate their interest in the brochures/pamphlets.
- Staff will update the website and Facebook pages to include information on places to see and things to do, and to share local events when notification is provided to staff.

Trails-ATV/Snowmobile Trails and Trestle Bridge
- L. Geddes provided an update on the trails within the Opeongo Snowbird system, noting that Spectacle Lake Trail opened earlier this week. The Green Bridge is open but does have structural issues and there may be an engineer report. While this is not an issue during the winter months, it may be an issue with other organizations outside of the winter months.
- Councillor Florent and B. Martin attended a meeting with Ontario Parks and MPP Billy

Denault regarding the Opeongo and Madawaska River Parks, which have recently been reclassified from non-operational to operational. The ministry has agreed to do a seasonal closure instead of a full closure. Councillor Florent will confirm with Jason Dwyer, Park Superintendent regarding a closure at a fire pit at the old mill where the groomer and other snowmobilers rest.

- Staff will follow up on the use of Spectacle Lake Road for snowmobilers and the groomer.

Housing Development

- Mayor LaValley provided an update on housing, advising that she does not yet have any formal information to share. At this time, it appears the Township is not on the list to receive housing through DNSSAB. She suggested that alternative models be explored to facilitate housing development.
- K. Gorman will forward some information on funding to staff**.**
- Mayor LaValley will follow back up with DNSSAB on the property behind the daycare.
- Staff will circulate the DNSSAB Housing Needs Study to the Committee.
- Staff will research the property adjacent to the township office. Focus will be on senior apartments. Staff to bring a plan back to committee. Housing will be number one priority for staff.

Short Recess – K. Gorman exited the meeting.

Update – Boat Launch & Trails Master Plan Development Grant

- The Township has been approved for the grant applied for to develop the plan, in the amount of $25,000, representing 50% of the total project cost. Public consultation will be included as part of the process, which will begin once staff have met with the Township Planner.

NEW BUSINESS:

South Algonquin Business Alliance - Parkbus

- Staff will reach out to South Algonquin Business Alliance regarding the request.

NEXT MEETING: February 26, 2026 9: 00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Florent **Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick**

To adjourn the Economic Development Committee Meeting of January 21, 2026 at 12:05 p.m.

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Councillor S. Pigeon Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

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