

February 26, 2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES

On Thursday February 26, 2026, at 9:00 am 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
Jim Hollett
Councillor Bill Rodnick - Zoom
Leah Geddes-Zoom
Kimberly Gorman- Zoom

Staff Present:

Bryan Martin CAO/Clerk-Treasurer - Zoom
Stephanie Russell, Community Development Intern

Barney Baker – Absent

Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Councillor Pigeon called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA: Mayor LaValley motioned to move the Housing development update to the last topic discussed as she was awaiting some information.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

Seconded by: Councillor Florent

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST or a General Nature Thereof: None

PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update – Key Initiatives

Advertising

- The focus of our next meeting will be the brochure and having it completed. Staff will send a copy of the draft brochure to committee members through email, and they can email any suggestions or ideas back to staff.

Trails-ATV/Snowmobile Trails and Trestle Bridge

- Councillor Pigeon asked for an update on a trail bypass out between Madawaska and Mackenzie Lake, Leah will reach out as this is a different snowmobile group.
- There was enquiry about creating a snowmobile trail to be able to access the Iron Moose. Part of this trail is on DNSSAB property and private property. Leah requested the landowner's information but due to privacy laws the township is unable to provide them. She would be able to come into the Chambers and look at the Roll book. It was suggested that this issue wait until we make our Boat Launch and Trails official plan.
- Creating this trail would give service access to 3 separate businesses in the area and would benefit economic growth.
- Staff will be in contact with Ontario Parks and DNSSAB in regard to the walking trail to see if we can get some answers on our roadblocks and how to make this become a connecting trail

South Algonquin Business Alliance – Park Bus / Shuttle Service within South Algonquin

- Councillor Pigeon and Stephanie attending an online meeting in regard to this opportunity about having a shuttle all year round. It's still in very early discussion stages but the committee is in agreeance it's a good idea. Stephanie will send Angela an email in how she can assist with spreading the idea to the community non digitally and collecting data.

The use of Spectacle Lake Road for snowmobiles

- This issue has been resolved, and we can clear it from the list.

Facebook Page and RTO 12

- Staff have been updating Facebook weekly
- Reached out to RTO 12 regarding the interest in being part of distributing our brochure once its completed (x2) with no response. Once the actual brochure is complete, staff will reach out again.

Updating the business directory / website

- Staff have been working on the business directory and website. Stephanie is meeting with our web developer next week to update the programming as there is a version upgrade.

NEW BUSINESS:

Draft Brochure

- Stephanie circulated a draft of a brochure she has been putting together for our advertising and will send it out by email for the committee to look at and add suggestions to.

Strategic Focus Areas/Action

- A laminated copy of our goals and objectives was handed out to the committee members that did not have a copy for reference

Advertising in Zine, "One Fine Day"

- The committee is in general agreeance that we should put an advertisement in Zine as previous years. The previous advertisement will be emailed to committee members and a recommendation will be sent to council.
- Councillor Florent called a point of order regarding remarks made during debate.
- Leah Geddes left the meeting after point of order.

Affordable housing in South Algonquin Presentation

- Mayor LaValley gave a wonderful update that NDHC has received funding approval for the first ADU within the district. They received seed money for predevelopment studies of 4 social housing units with one of them being in South Algonquin.

NEXT MEETING: March 18, time to be determined but will happen once the Asset Management meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Siydock

To adjourn the Economic Development Committee Meeting of February 26, 2026, at 10:45 am.

Councillor S. Pigeon

Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer