

October 1, 2015
Township of Strong Municipal Office

Present: Sundridge – Don Richardson
Strong –
South River – Sharon Smith
Machar – Lynda Carleton
Joly – Chris Nicholson
Business Reps – Jennifer Farquhar (arrived 5:50 pm), Luke Preston (left 6:55 pm)
Community Resource Rep –
MNDM – Carole Mantha
FedNor – Ron Begin

Absent: Les Blackwell, Gary McLaren, Merlyn Snow

Guests: Rick Evans, David Gray, Don Curry

Delegates: Garvin Cole - HR North
Catherine Mayne - NECO

Staff Present: Kim Dunnett – Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Vice Chair Don Richardson, in the Chair's absence.

Delegations:

Garvin Cole attended and was accompanied by Don Curry to speak about the Multicultural Centre Northeastern Ontario Immigration Project. Garvin shared a handout and reviewed the information with everyone. Some of the key highlights that Garvin spoke about were;

- employers stating the issues of getting skilled labourers
- support and funding partners
- various symposiums held to gather information
- effects of the number of upcoming retiree's, low birth rate and youth out-migration
- currently working with a Central Almaguin employer
- immigration is key to Canada's economic growth
- express entry system for immigrants

- portals for smaller municipalities
- educating process on multicultural individuals
- supporting refugees and getting them established

There was a discussion on where the immigrants come from and the type of businesses they pursue. Working on the express entry system is key in the process and getting the smaller municipalities' setup on portals. Garvin and Don thanked CAEDA members for listening to their presentation.

Catherine Mayne was unable to attend.

General Discussion:

MNDM Update: Carole Mantha updated the committee on the progress of the BR&E project, with launch dates set for October 13, 14 and 15. Carole requested that the group share the information regarding the BR&E projects with as many businesses as possible. The survey that was forwarded to the CAEDA members, Carole asked if there were any additional questions to be added. The draft agenda was discussed for the sessions and possible person to give a welcome at the October 15, 2015 gathering. All Council members are encouraged to attend the sessions. Possible volunteers were discussed and the mandatory training for them.

FedNor Update: Ron Begin stated his role for the BR&E will be to attend the session on October 15, 2015. Ron had some suggestions on getting businesses to attend the sessions. The Federal Election is coming up later in October.

Business Rep Report: The business reps reported that they have been attending Almaguin Highlands Chamber Commerce meetings and supporting the BR&E project by promoting the upcoming sessions. The reps commented it was nice having the Chamber of Commerce, so that everyone is under the same umbrella. A discussion took place regarding the highway signage and contact information for the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is currently working on branding and marketing plan because of the changes with the surrounding municipalities joining.

Contract Staff: The Secretary shared a draft agreement with the members and five potential candidates. The committee agreed that an individual should be hired before the BR&E session on October 15, 2015 takes place.

EDO Hiring Sub-Committee Meeting Dates: No dates were set as the Chair was absent. The Secretary will discuss with Chair and advise sub-committee once dates are available.

FAB15 Financial Report/Statement: The business reps gave a brief update stating that the festival had a short fall and a financial statement is forthcoming. Key highlights of the day were shared, with the overall day being a success. The only negative comment received was there seem to be a disconnect because the main street and arena were a distance apart.

Update on Canadore College: Voucher for eBusiness: This item was deferred until the next meeting as the Chair was absent. An update will be given at the next meeting.

Voting Rights for Business Reps: This item was deferred until the next meeting until all members are present to make a decision.

Updating Strategic Plan: Previous documents were reviewed. A discussion on next steps and key items took place. The importance of the BR&E project was thoroughly considered. A vision/mission statement should clarify who you are and who you want to be. Rick spoke about the SWOT Analysis and the significance it plays in the Strategic Plan. A separate Strategic Planning session may be a better opportunity for the group going forward. Preparation for the planning sessions are essential and reviewing the following documents will ensure everyone will be ready and organized; 2009 Strategic Plan, Gap Analysis, Market Study and CAEDA Strat Plan Session 2 (Dave Gray's handout). Rick suggested that CAEDA members should take their time to update the Strat Plan, making sure all items are captured. A separate date from the regular meeting will be circulated by the secretary for confirmation.

Correspondence:

The members reviewed and discussed resume received.

Adoption of Minutes:

Resolution: 2015-44

Moved by: Sharon Smith

Seconded by: Chris Nicholson

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adopt the minutes of regular meeting of September 3, 2015, as circulated.

Carried

Approve CAEDA Expenses:

Resolution: 2015-45

Moved by: Lynda Carleton

Seconded by: Sharon Smith

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby approve expenses between September 4, 2015 and October 1, 2015 in the amount of \$100.51 and authorize the administrator to issue cheques for the same.

Carried

New Business: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 5, 2015

Adjournment:

Resolution: 2015-46

Moved by: Sharon Smith

Seconded by: Lynda Carleton

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adjourn at 7:22 pm until the next regular meeting November 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Strong Township Municipal Office, or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

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Chair, Les Blackwell

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Recording Secretary, Kim Dunnett