

**January 7, 2016**  
**Township of Strong Municipal Office**

**Present:** Sundridge – Don Richardson  
Strong – Les Blackwell  
South River – Sharon Smith  
Machar – Bart Wood  
Joly – Chris Nicholson  
Business Reps – Jennifer Farquhar, Luke Preston  
Community Resource Rep –  
MNDM – Carole Mantha  
FedNor – Ron Begin

**Absent:** Gary McLaren, Lynda Carleton, Merlyn Snow

**Guests:** Shannon Martin, Martina Collier, John Collier

**Delegates:** Morgan Richter & Kelli Ebbs - Muskoka North Good Food Co-op

**Staff Present:** Kim Dunnett – Recording Secretary  
John Santarossa – Interim EDO

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Les Blackwell.

**Resolution 2016-01**

**Moved by:** Don Richardson

**Seconded by:** Sharon Smith

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby amend the January 7, 2016 agenda to include a Closed Session regarding “labour relations or employee negotiations”. **Carried**

**Delegations:**

Kelli Ebbs introduced intern Morgan Richter and hand over the presentation to her. Several handouts were given to each committee member with information on the food co-op. Morgan presented a power point presentation and spoke about the food co-op’s mission. The food co-op’s membership was explained and how it works. A new retail grocery market at the west end of Huntsville is currently in the planning process, opening in the summer 2016. Morgan talked about the Northern Foods Geo-mapping project and how it will assist in identifying agri-food champions and help to identify any gaps. A survey will be distributed and northern agri-producers can choose the information they would like displayed on the markers for geo-mapping. Currently the food co-op is awaiting funding and investors. They hope to employ 10 fulltime employees at their Huntsville location with 10% grow each year.

## **General Discussion:**

**MNDM Update:** Carole Mantha gave a BR&E update, explaining why it is crucial to ensure proper steps are followed when carrying out the BR&E survey. Proper procedures will ensure good data for future planning. At the next Leadership Meeting this will be a topic of discussion. Carole spoke about the new economic development partnership formed by Kearney, Perry, Murrich/Monteith and Magnetawan and that she will be sharing some of the practices learned from CAEDA. Carole announced her role will be expanding with MNDM in regards to private sector. A local business owner that Carole met with has had difficulty attracting employees. Suggestions were given to Carole to help the employer with possible solutions. The AHHC has combined their RED application with several events and it is presently being drafted.

**FedNor Update:** Ron Begin spoke in regards to the combined events for the RED application from the Chamber. Ron has met with members and they have started the planning process. A tentative date of June 11 and 12, 2016 has been set and the location has been determined to be South River. A suggestion was made by Ron to have labour market groups or employers requiring staff to setup as a recruitment opportunity.

**Business Rep Report:** Jennifer is co-chair of the FAB16 event and the planning for the event is continuing to progress. It is possible the Fab event could stay in South River in future years, instead of moving each year, as previously planned. The Chamber is starting to develop and move forward in unity. Jennifer stated the AHCC Christmas Social was well attended. The AHCC is currently working on their Strategic Plan, with monthly meetings and social meetings as well. Highway signage has been updated to reflect the name change of the Chamber.

**EDO Report:** John Santarossa updated everyone on the BR&E survey progress, stating 15 have been completed to date. Some comments John has received are that broadband is a requirement, labour issues and property tax amounts.

**Update on Canadore College: Voucher for E-Business:** Les Blackwell explained the purpose of the E-Business voucher. It could be very useful to businesses in the area, if they want to take advantage of the service. Les stated that the information can be passed along through the EDO. Carole Mantha will share the information with the Chamber.

**Government-regulated Production Facilities:** The group shared their Council's opinions about Government-regulated facilities. Most Councils had mixed opinions, it could create jobs, but in turn cause moral issues. The group felt that the decision was best left up to each individual council.

Revised Terms of Reference: The “Terms of Reference” was reviewed and discussed and members felt it was acceptable, but would like the mission statement changed to the new one drafted for the Strategic Plan. The Secretary will update the document as requested.

**Resolution: 2016-02**

**Moved by:**

**Seconded by:**

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adopt the CAEDA Terms of Reference as amended. ***Deferred***

MTO Signage – Algonquin Park: The letter drafted by the Chair was reviewed and committee members approved the letter to be sent to the MTO, with cc to Norm Miller, MPP.

**Resolution: 2016-03**

**Moved by:** Chris Nicholson

**Seconded by:** Bart Wood

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby support in principle the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce submitting an application to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) for the Rural Economic Development (RED) program. The application for this project and associated financial support requested through the RED program is intended to enhance the AHCC and the region through the promotion of Almaguin Highlands and the strong collaboration among stakeholders.

**Correspondence:** None

**Adoption of Minutes:**

**Resolution: 2016-04**

**Moved by:** Sharon Smith

**Seconded by:** Don Richardson

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

**Approve CAEDA Expenses:**

**Resolution: 2016-05**

**Moved by:** Chris Nicholson

**Seconded by:** Sharon Smith

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby approve expenses between December 4, 2015 and January 7, 2016 in the amount of \$11,804.25 and authorize the administrator to issue cheques for the same. ***Carried***

**New Business:**

The next Strategic Planning session was discussed and the date and time was set for February 25, 2016 at 5:30 pm, Strong Municipal Office.

**Closed Session:**

**Resolution 2016-06**

**Moved by:** Don Richardson

**Seconded by:** Bart Wood

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby move into closed session at 19:43 under Subsection 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act to consider a matter involving “labour relations or employee negotiations”

***Carried***

The Committee resumed its regular meeting at 20:14. The Chair reported that the committee did discuss the matters it was permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 4, 2016

**Adjournment:**

**Resolution: 2016-08**

**Moved by:** Sharon Smith

**Seconded by:** Bart Wood

Be it resolved that this committee does hereby adjourn at 20:14 until the next regular meeting February 4, 2016 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**