



MINUTES

Hespeler Business Improvement Area Committee Hespeler Heritage Centre

11 Tannery St E, Cambridge, ON
June 12, 2020

Committee Members in Attendance; Cory DeVilliers, Vice-Chair, Brian Kennedy, Executive Director, Valerie Labbe, Recorder, Stefany Kawka, Councillor Mike Devine, Councillor Donna Reid and Laura Pearce, Staff Liaison

Regrets: Cliff VanClief, Chair, Kenn Norman, Treasurer, Khalid Zaffar, Dave Olesen

Meeting Called to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and the meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Cory DeVilliers

Seconded by: Councillor Devine

THAT the minutes of the Hespeler Business Improvement Area Committee meeting of the March 12, 2020 be approved as written.

CARRIED

City Hall Phase 2 Re-Opening Plans

Laura provided an update that Cambridge City Hall will begin opening the main floor as of June 15th in alignment with Phase 2 of re-opening. Residents are still encouraged to use online services whenever possible.

City Updates - Forbes Park Splash Pad

Forbes Park splash pad has been listed as one of the 1st three splash pads in the City to re-open over the next couple of weeks. City is reviewing plans around limiting users, controlled access and bathroom facilities.

City Updates - Hanging Baskets

There are 35 baskets currently allocated for Hespeler core area with focus on Queen Street along and secondary focus on Tannery Street and possibly Guelph Ave. Cory suggested we avoid Guelph Ave for now as there is still a lot of construction in that area. Target install week of June 22nd.

City Updates - Hespeler Sign

Laura confirmed that Isley Landscaping is set to complete landscaping by end of June. Once landscaping complete a contractor will be lined up to finish the concrete work and sidewalk as a next step.

City Updates - Hespeler Rocks Project

The rock installation has been approved to be on City property at Jacob's Landing. No major issues with the proposed location as long as it is set back from the sidewalk for winter snow removal. Laura, Dave and Brian are currently working with Parks & Recreation as well as Arts & Culture on next steps and will provide an update. For example, if the rock is owned by the BIA then ownership of the artwork needs to be transferred to BIA. Content to be approved and budget needed by the BIA for ongoing maintenance if the rock is de-faced or needs to be cleaned up. Hoping the process will be leaner than original layout so we can move it along faster. Tentatively targeted for July installation.

Core Area Transformation Fund Report

Update that the reports will be presented to City Council on June 23rd after being delayed from March 17th due to COVID-19.

City Updates - Patios and Permit Fees

City has streamlined the process and waiving permit fees to allow businesses to set up patios as part of a re-opening phase. Application process is available online for these businesses. City staff are also looking at strategically placing picnic tables in each of the the core areas to allow visitors to enjoy takeout while still social distancing. Cory suggested that we have a picnic table in front of Indulge and in front of Ernie's. Laura stated that a potential list of locations will be reviewed by City depts. including a review from a safety and transportation perspective. Brian suggested we bring recommendations to the City of areas we feel would be good to include.

Queen Street East Saturday Road Closure

Recent email survey was sent out to the general membership on the possibility of a Saturday street closure on Queen Street East in July and August. The goal would be to help attract visitors to the core area businesses and provide an opportunity to shop and support the local businesses and restaurants while allowing social distancing with the additional space provided due to the street closures. Brian will look at possibly having drone footage from the first street closure that we can promote on social media.

Brian shared that while there was not a lot of response from the general membership, those who did respond were mostly in favour. City is already looking at adding additional picnic tables in each of the downtown cores so some discussion of including a few on Queen Street on Saturdays during the street closure. Picnic tables would be placed on the street, Forbes Park and the Cenotaph area. Some questions to resolve are whether visitors can they bring their own food and also whether purchasing and consuming beer in tins from the local restaurants would be allowed? Cory mentioned that this is now allowed after changes made by the Provincial Gov't and he will send the details by email. City will confirm that alcohol in cans is permitted. Committee at City Hall needs to make sure of any positive or negative business impact from the closure so really need each business to advise if it will impact deliveries and/or parking? Tentatively looking for a possible street closure from 8am – 10pm on Saturdays. Will also need to identify locations of patios and tables and ensure that there is still sidewalk access for strollers and wheelchairs to ensure accessibility.

Explore the Core from Home Video Promotion

Video package is being put together for us to review and finalizing whether Economic Development will look at partnering with us on the cost. City agreed on the “Explore the Core from Home” ad campaign for the three BIA’s and as there is still funding available, Brian reached out to see if we can re-allocate some of those funds. Any additional digital campaign for Saturday street closure would be done separately.

Garbage Reminder for Large Items

Reminder from Stefany who had some recent discussions with the region around garbage pick up in the downtown core that the region does not do large item pickup in the downtown core area. There was recently some large furniture items put out to the curb so suggestion that we include this as a reminder in an upcoming newsletter as awareness to landlords and tenants.

Hespeler Village Market

Has now been cancelled by the organizers this year due to COVID-19 and restrictions placed on Markets.

July BIA Meeting

The next Hespeler BIA meeting is tentatively set for Mid-July with date and time to be confirmed in July.

Close of Meeting

Moved by: Valerie Labbe

Seconded by: Cliff VanClief

THAT the June 12, 2020 meeting of the Hespeler BIA Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 11:48 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair – HESPELER BIA

Recording Secretary