

**Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee
Agenda
Monday, October 16 , 2017
5:15 pm Neebing Municipal Office**

1. Attendance- Gary Davies, Erwin Butikofer, Brock Marshall, Dawne Kilgour (chair) , Clara Butikofer (note taker) Regrets- Pam Cain
2. Approval of the Agenda.
Moved by: G. Davies/W. Robinson . Carried
3. Declaration of conflict of interest: none
4. Approval of the minutes of June 12, 2017 and Sept 11, 2017
Moved by: W. Robinson/B. Marshall- Carried
5. Old Business:
 - a. Reviewing information from Kendall Donohue (OMAFRA) and next steps .
 - The value of doing any sort of study for Economic growth from Agriculture in Neebing was discussed. The documents from Kendall revealed that the numbers of farmland, related business and workforce employed in Neebing is too small for large growth.
 - Selling the community as a retirement community and creating infrastructure to ensure that all the populated areas have good roads and services, (internet) , making them more attractive to the buyer is essential to build our population and tax base.
 - The committee will prepare a list of recommendations at the next meeting for the Council to consider as projects that could be done by a hired individual . (Economic Development officer or Intern)
 - b. Fleshing out the Strategic Plan.
 - Copies of the current committee strategic plan were shared
 - Many items require the committee to complete tasks that go beyond the committee's original intent/mandate
 - We are a voluntary board of advisors and our role is not to represent the Municipality in any official capacity.
 - Further discussion will take place at our working meeting and the plan will be adjusted to be advisory in nature rather than task driven
6. New Business
 - a. HOCP meeting
 - Clara Butikofer reminded everyone of the next Quarterly meeting in Two Harbours on October 26- 27. Gary expressed interest. Others were non committal. Gary Davies spoke of the last meeting and the value of Neebing's association with Heart of the Continent. Clara is Co- Chair of HOCP this year and advised the committee that the Friday morning(27th) will be devoted to delving into the strategic plan of the organization. Path of the Paddle will be featured as the Guest speaker on Thursday night.

- b. Mike Dunlop invitation – The committee felt that meeting with another government agency funder was not appropriate unless there is a project in mind.
 - c. Other – Councillor Butikofer spoke of housing starts this year. Rio Tinto mining interest, SAPPI forestry project, lack of success with the Border Store property.
 - d. The committee suggested a press release could be sent out regarding our housing growth and the quality of life that is affordable in Neebing.
7. Gasifier update- Mayor Polkowski had updated the chair on the state of the Gasifier. G. Giotano ? was recently in Thunder Bay and met with the Mayor and others from the region in the biofuel industry at a recent conference. He is still seeking permits.
8. Next Meeting...Monday, November 13 , 2017 – 5:15- Dinner meeting- Location TBA.
9. Adjournment at 6:37 pm Moved by W. Robinson