

Economic Development Committee – Kiosk Project 2020

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) has 7 members. **Rachel Stratton, Brenda Patrick, Georgie Mackenzie, Sharon Charette, Melissa McLachlan, Cathy Nesbitt and Dorothy Hunt.** We continue to meet on a monthly basis.

-In March, Council approved submitting an application to **Island Coastal Economic Trust** for a grant to work on the strip of trees between the plaza parking lot and Larch place.

- This project falls in line with the results of the survey done with the community. The survey showed that beautifying the centre of town and making the town more tourist friendly was a **community priority**. The kiosks would provide much needed tourist information about the Village.
- A **community consult was done on March 11th 5-8pm** in the council chambers. Information displayed; a sketch of the project, info about the Economic Development Committee and the Tourism Working Group, both the Economic Strategy and the Tourism Strategy. There was also a volunteer sign up sheet. 18 community members showed up and asked many questions about the project. When the whole project was explained to the guests we had lots of **enthusiastic comments** and many people volunteered to help.
- The Committees plan has been well thought out but is also flexible. Once the larger trees and invasive plants are removed and all the **remaining plants trimmed**, the areas that need planting will be addressed.
- Community members were pleased to know that the project would remove the large trees that are **causing damage** to the sidewalks and utilities. **The plan is to leave** any non invasive bushes such as the Rhododendrons and all the smaller trees. NOTE the replanting would not involve large growing trees.
- The plan is to have the area **look like the strip of land** that was redone along the main road in front of Larch place across from the fire hall. It has been noted that seating around Uptown Cappuccino and Sawyers Coffee House is well used, we have planned to install additional seating on this re-mediated section of land.
- This grant is **specifically for community improvements**, not for fire protection. Not only will it allow for the removal of the trees but also the beautification of the area. These trees will need to be removed by the Village in the near future because of their size. Doing this project with grant money in place will cover the cost of removal as well as money to fix up the area once it is done.
- The \$15,125 portion of the project comes from the Village's **Economic Development Funds**. These funds were set aside specifically for Economic Development. The money came from revenue from a forest licence which was set aside for Economic Development and not from residential tax dollars. The committee hopes this will be the first of many projects that will help create a more prosperous local economy while supporting community services, such as tourist services.

Please stay tuned for more up and coming projects from the EDC!

SHOP LOCAL - MONTH OF JUNE

ANNUAL BUSINESS WALKS – MONTH OF OCTOBER

BRANDING/WEBSITE - CURRENT

WAYFINDING – 2021-2022

Happily submitted by Councillor Stratton on behalf of the **Economic Development Committee**