

**Omemee Working Group Meeting
Thursday March 8, 2018
7-9pm**

Attendees: Matthew Hutchison, Mary Ann Martin, Leisha Newton, Bill McQuaid, Kelly Carmichael, Judy Coward

Regrets: Julie Kellett

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm by M Hutchison

CKL Staff needs to follow up with the Omemee Working Group Chairs to:

- Figure out what the agenda should include
- Clarification on the role of the chairs, and CKL staff
- What is quorum for this group?
- Who are the members of the working group

Downtown Dreams Update:

Leisha advised that the contest was launched on March 2, and applications will be received until March 23, 2018.

Leisha advised that the customer service centres have information about the contest, and to direct people to contact Leisha if they have any questions.

Accessibility Workshop:

Leisha advised that Barb Condie will be hosting an Accessibility Workshop in Omemee on March 21, 2018 7-8:30pm and registration information is on the CKL website.

<https://forms.kawarthalakes.ca/Clerks-Office/Accessibility-Presentation-and-Visioning-Exercise>

Flower Display Proposal:

Matthew Hutchison presented a floral display concept that was provided for consideration. The group agreed that the floral designs will be guided by the Streetscape and Façade Guidelines that were created from the community involvement. The proposal will not be considered at this time.

Streetscape & Façade Design Guidelines:

There were questions around the timing of the Omemee Streetscape upgrades and infrastructure improvements. It was suggested that the planning would occur in 2019, with construction to begin in 2020. Leisha to confirm.

Murals:

The murals will be installed later in the spring, dependant on weather and staff availability. The working group would like to host a large media event to unveil the murals. Possibly include a BBQ (hot dogs & burgers) at the Legion? Leisha to advise Debra Soule of the groups' request.

Website:

The working group would like to request that there are more pictures included on our website. For the next meeting, Leisha requested that members provide a list of the type of pictures they would like of the downtown.

Beach:

There was a question of whether the beach was safe for swimming. It was suggested that due to the run-off from the Canadian goose feces, the water is contaminated. Mary Ann suggested that the Parks & Recreation department was investigating the installation of a specific plant growth that would attract the geese away from the beaches. Leisha to request an update from Parks & Recreation.

Notice of Motion:

At the last Downtown Revitalization Advisory Panel meeting, the following Notice of Motion was presented:

the Downtown Revitalization Advisory Panel recommends that the Council of the City of Kawartha Lakes immediately rescind the Cash-in-Lieu of Parking policies in Lindsay and Fenelon Falls until such time that fair policies that apply equally across the City of Kawartha Lakes can be considered.

Rationale: the current parking by laws in Lindsay and Fenelon Falls are unequal, onerous and create an unfair disadvantage for businesses in those two communities, by increasing the cost of operations and construction. This acts as a disincentive for investment and hobbles necessary improvements. In Fenelon Falls the parking fee, is \$5,000 per space and in Lindsay, \$1,500 per space, which in and of itself is biased and unfair. With our efforts to date and our goals envisioned under the Downtown Revitalization Plans, if left in place these policies will hamper our efforts at improvement, business attraction and business retention.

Upon discussion, Mary Ann Martin presented a motion to accept this request, seconded by Bill McQuaid.

CARRIED

GANTT review (Action Plan):

3.1 Bylaw to provide an update on people living in commercial spaces on the 1st floor in the downtown. Leisha to provide an update at the next meeting.

3.5 Binders will be in the Customer Service Centres and Libraries for the community members to review

The working group has requested that the design guidelines be provided to the companies. A 4-8 page summary marketing piece may not be enough.

We need to plan a public meeting to share the information about the Streetscape & Façade Design Guidelines and the CIP, to encourage direct engagement and ensure that local business and building owners understand the material and the process.

Leisha to provide the working group members with information about the CIP and Façade Guidelines.

4.9 Laurie to add brochures for tourism? Community (working group) to identify a way to promote the downtown businesses.

The working group needs to find a way to promote the town with no service centre on the weekends. Possibly a kiosk at the Trans Canada Trail at Sturgeon Road?

Matthew Hutchison to ask the Advisory Panel how other communities address this issue?

Kinmount gets a summer student every year that manages the visitor's centre. Can Omemee get the same?

Maybe we could put a glass case (Lions to build?) at the boat launch or on the way up to downtown Omemee.

4.11 Possibility of a Farmer's Market on Fridays. Kelly Carmichael to investigate.

New Business:

Bill McQuaid has been getting a series of senior's minded groups to meet together to align initiatives and energy related to a series of issues. There will be a meeting held at the Legion on April 6, 2018 at 10am. The group will be called "Omemee Unite".

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm

Next Meeting April 11, 2018 7-9pm