



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Monday, March 3, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Co-Chair Councillor Deb Wilson
Co-Chair Cholly Boland
James McNeil
Rick Tachuk
Tracy McDonald
Wayne Brown
Wendy Embleton
Andre Rancourt
Shawn Carnegie
Greg Lane
Deputy Mayor John Barclay
- MEMBERS ABSENT** Mayor Nancy Peckford
Heather Currie, Tourism Coordinator
- STAFF PRESENT** Matt Gilmer, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism
Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services - Arrived at:
4:01PM

Senterre McKenna, Committee Clerk
Bruce Enloe - Arrived at 3:51PM
- OTHERS PRESENT** Anne Weir, United Counties of Leeds Grenville
Terri-Lyn McEvoy, Chamber of Commerce
Talia Herljac, BIA
Annie Hillis, Kemptville Campus

A. Open Meeting

Co-Chair Cholly Boland called the meeting to order at 3:33p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgment

The land acknowledgement was read by Deb Wilson.

C. Approval of the Agenda

#CEDAC-2025- 07

Moved by Tracy McDonald

Seconded by Greg Lane

Be it resolved that:

The Committee agenda for March 3, 2025, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

D. Disclosure of Interests

None.

E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

#CEDAC-2025- 08

Moved by Greg Lane

Seconded by Tracy McDonald

Be it resolved that:

The following meeting minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - February 3, 2025

F. Delegations

None.

G. Decision Items

None.

H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports

1. Investment Attraction Strategy
 - Rick Tachuk mentioned that incentives have worked in other communities.

- John Barclay suggested reviewing commercial tax rates to ensure North Grenville stays competitive.
- Greg Lane recommended partnering with nearby communities and organizations like Invest Ottawa, as attracting businesses to North Grenville is challenging.
- Cholly Boland mentioned John Barclay's previous idea of using business cards to connect with businesses considering a move to North Grenville.
- Ann Weir shared that the Campus is looking into Zoom Prospector for listing available local properties. She recommended Matt Gilmer attend the Economic Developer Council of Ontario conference for networking.
- Greg Lane noted that Invest Ottawa is conducting another survey and suggested CEDAC meet with them.
- Tracy McDonald said the working groups give a good view of the current situation. The goal is to attract new businesses and offer incentives for them to invest in North Grenville. She mentioned the CSE Job Fair is sold out for tomorrow, with many tables and the focus is on matching businesses with local job opportunities.

2. Economic Development Plan Comments

Matt Gilmer provided an overview of the Economic Development Plan, emphasizing that it is part of a broader framework that includes the Strategic Plan, Tourism Strategy, Waterfront Strategy, and the FICE program.

Cholly Boland highlighted Agritech Innovation and Tourism as key focus areas within the strategy. No additional feedback from Members at this time. Matt Gilmer mentioned that suggestions can always be sent to him via email.

3. Strategic Plan Update

- Hillary Geneau, Director of Corporate Services, highlighted the online viewing option for the Strategic Plan and reviewed the information pillars with Members.

- Broadband access is a key priority for North Grenville, with specific local areas supported by funded projects, as shown by Ontario High-Speed Mapping.
- Cholly Boland noted that broadband access could impact potential new development.
- Discussion included tourism, Waterfront Access Strategy, and the Downtown Revitalization Plan.
- The Kemptville Campus MOU is under review by Karen Dunlop, CAO, and Annie Hillis, Executive Director, with completion expected in the next few weeks.
- Deb Wilson raised Key Action 3.5.5, focused on strengthening relationships with Parks Canada and the Municipality, and confirmed connections with Ministry of Natural Resources, Transport Canada, and the Conservation Authority.
- Cholly Boland suggested narrowing the goals to allow for more direct focus.

4. USA/Canada Relations & Impacts of Tariffs Decision on Local Economy

- Cholly Boland raised concerns about US-Canada relations and travel implications.
- Rick Tachuk, CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce in Canada, works on US/Canada issues and advised Members about upcoming US tariffs, effective March 4th.
- The focus of these tariffs is on restricted border access, steel and aluminum tariffs, and a review of reciprocal tariffs.
- There is a possibility of digital trade tariffs being introduced, and a softwood lumber investigation is ongoing, which may affect the Canadian lumber industry.
- Mexico has aligned with the US, matching tariffs against China.
- Rick Tachuk mentioned a meeting with the Mayor of Windsor and the formation of a National Border Mayors Alliance.

- Concerns were raised about leadership in Canada and its potential impact on US relations.
- General discussion followed on US-Canada relations and border issues.

5. Working Groups Update

- **Competitive Analysis/Investment Promotion:** Rick Tachuk provided a Canada-US relations update and invited Matt Gilmer to a future meeting.
- **Workforce Challenges:** Tracy McDonald mentioned the Spring Job Fair at NGMC on March 4th (12-4pm), with local employers from a 50 km radius and Ottawa, and discussed regional transportation issues.
- **Serviceable Lands and Rural Development:** Deb Wilson noted difficulty in organizing the working group.
- **Clean Tech Development Sustainability:** Greg Lane shared that an interim report is completed and will go to Council in a few weeks.
- **Arts, Culture, and Heritage:** John Barclay mentioned two resolutions from January's meeting regarding public art policy and a budget request for up to 1% of tax-generated revenues for art projects. This is currently under review by the Senior Management Team.
- **Terri-Lyn McEvoy, Chambers:** Announced an event on March 27th, marketing through the website, and the Mayors' address on March 20th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.
- **Talia Herljac, BIA:** Promoted a networking event on June 12th called "Let's Catch Up," catered by Oxford Mills Girls Guilds.
- **Ann Weir, UCLG:** Discussed Invest Leeds Grenville Redi, a pilot program for the Immigrant Nominee Ontario program.

I. Other Business

1. Items for Next Meeting

No items were listed.

J. Public Questions

None.

K. Adjournment

#CEDAC-2025- 09

Moved by James McNeil

Seconded by Tracy McDonald

Be it resolved that:

The meeting be adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

CARRIED