



Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
Peer Working Group
July 24 | 1:30 p.m.
Lyndhurst Library

Present:

Donna Dempsey, Lansdowne Agricultural Society
Jan Murray, 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce
Barb Smeath, Lansdowne Association for Revitalization
Mary Jo Sibbald, Lyndhurst Community Organization
Ken Davies, Lyndhurst Community Organization

Staff:

Tracy Holland, Communications & Community Engagement

Absent:

Wendy Merkley, Rockport Development Group
Monique Hartley, Seeley's Bay Area Residents Association
Barb Bajema, Lyndhurst Seeley's Bay & District Chamber of Commerce

Review of Minutes from April 24, 2024

Updates from Minutes

Veteran Banner Project—Hydro technically does not permit attaching flags, etc., to its poles, so we, as a Township, can't become involved or provide further comment on requests of this nature.

Motion to approve minutes, Donna Dempsey and Barb Smeath.
Minutes carried.

Guest Speaker from Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit unable to attend

We plan to have a speaker at the next meeting in October, but they should come at the end of the meeting in case some group members are not interested in staying for the presentation.

Community Updates, events, activities, and information sharing

Lansdowne Agricultural Society – 160th Fair was successful, with capturing new and old events. A hydro pole was taken out when

the rides/vendors pulled out, requiring the replacement of a hydro pole.

Rodeo – was very expensive to host. It was well attended, requiring the gates to be closed at 7L30 p.m. as it was at capacity. 2,500 was the cap for people. Had a licensed area without any issues. The rodeo company wants to return next year.

August 11th is the Sunday Classic Car Show, which includes a flea market and car part sales.

Lyndhurst Community Organization – Commended the Township of the dock replacement.

They are requesting to widen the grass-cutting of the path, which would open up access for people when carrying canoes down the path.

The group assisted with the resolution that was put forward to have the speed limit reduced at the bridge.

The group is inquiring about the Township's plans for benches, more flowerpots, consistent attractive signs, and more signs to attractions. The group is interested in street scaping and street calming and was inquiring about who owns the bump outs, Twsp. or County.

405 land is an eye sore and certainly not inviting for tourism. Although they understand it belongs to MNR, they don't cut it. Is there a way TLTI could negotiate with MNR to have it consistently cut?

There doesn't seem to be any grass-cutting or whipper-sniping around the bridge. Looking for this to be addressed.

Are interested in knowing that part of economic enhancement is being conducted from this working group. Does TLTI have staff that are involved with the County? Why do we not host business awards like Rideau Lakes does? Tracy to investigate this and report back.

They held a successful plant sale.

A Community Garden has been established and new volunteers have become involved in the garden and the LCO.

They understand the County has hired a Tourism staff.

The Seeley's Bay bulletin board key has been lost, preventing people from posting content on the board.

LAFR – held a successful Plant Sale, Textile Sale and Garden Tour.

They would like the township to pursue a flashing light at the intersection of Prince and King Street. A group member stated they could request this through Council.

Gananoque Chamber of Commerce—On September 26th, the Chamber will host the Business Awards. The event will take place at the Shorelines Casino. Nominations are being accepted now. Businesses don't need to be members of the Chamber. On October 18th, the Chamber will host the 2nd Annual Girls Night Out and Fashion Show. The event will take place at the Lansdowne Community Building. The fashion show will have four timings.

Updates from TLTI

Tracy reviewed the Communication results with the group. 53.72 respondents reported getting their TLTI info from Facebook, while 39.89% said from the website and 35.11% said word of mouth. 30.81 % of people reported they do not check for news or updates from the Township, with 24% reporting they check for updates weekly. 51.93 people reported being interested in knowing about waste disposal, 39.78% reported being interested in by-laws, and 46.96% reported being interested in News Releases.

Website – project continues with an anticipated launch in late fall. TLTI was not successful with the Seniors Grant. Tracy would like to see the project move forward in a small way, in one location, in November. She was looking for a few interested volunteers and encouraged the PEER group to ask about their connections. If anyone is interested, they can contact Tracy at ext. 207. The plan is to have the event in Seeley's Bay.

Seniors Day in the Park is on Thursday, September 26, 2024. Spread the word.

Tracy directed group members to information about garbage and waste sites, the upcoming hazardous waste days, and the amnesty card you can purchase to take large items to the dumps.

A reminder to group members that if they know of a business in the Township looking to advertise, we give out free welcome bags and would be more than happy to put a brochure or business card in the bag. Tracy reached out to the local Chambers to get the word out.

Brainstorming session

Wayfinding signs need to be added to next month's meeting agenda with a solid plan in place.

Flowers and the types of flowers to be ordered need to be brought back from the working group to the department. The group felt many of the plants were unsuitable for growing in their spaces.

Does TLTI have a membership with St. Lawrence Economic Development.

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The Economic Development Summit is coming up, and businesses will be accepted for awards. It was recommended that the Township put forward a business.

It was recommended the Township bring notice to the County Grants program.

Ken asked if the Township hosts any Small Halls events. He believes they are a tourism attraction in which the Township should be involved. Tracy believes SBARA hosts a Small Hall event every year. She was on a call about this a few weeks ago.

Tracy inquired about having each of the Community groups complete the new PEER application, with an emphasis on clarifying their current goals, objectives, plans, and activities. Since two groups were absent, this request will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Next meeting

October 23, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Place to be determined