

Nov. 18/20
(20-26)
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Ad Hoc Broadband Committee

October 15, 2020
Council Chambers

The Committee convened at 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Nancy Jones-Scissons, Councillor Darlene Walsh, Helen Bilodeau

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Georges Bilodeau, Clerk/Administrator Debbie Tonelli and Michael Groh (via Zoom)

Michael Groh discussed with the Committee the following contacts to be made in preparation for Stage 2 of the ICON Application in order to obtain a letter of support, in principle, from each:

- (1) the remaining municipalities that have not yet provided a letter of support. Georges and Debbie will work on this list;
- (2) the schools within the project area. Debbie will complete the list of school boards. Georges advised that he has sent emails to Gord Gauthier, broadband contact for the Rainbow District;
- (3) Libraries. Darlene will work on obtaining the names and addresses for this list;
- (4) Hospitals, Health Centres and Nurse Practitioner Led Clinics. Nancy will work on this list;
- (5) Businesses in Iron Bridge, Blind River and Thessalon. Michael advised that obtaining the number of employees; website addresses; and contact information would be ideal. A script will be prepared for the calls to the businesses and Nancy, Darlene and Helen will work on this. A FAQ will also be prepared in order to address any questions that might be posed by the business owners during the call.

The above information is to be brought back to the next Meeting.

Nancy discussed with the Committee the meeting held with a group of ratepayers that she, Helen and Councillor Kirby attended. Michael advised that he and Joe Hickey would be willing to conduct a Zoom presentation with the group.

A tab respecting the Regional Broadband project will be created on the Municipal Website to include a Rock Networks power point presentation; letters and updates from the Mayor; Rock Networks links; etc.

Michael reported that Rock Networks is looking at ways of raising money through registered savings plans, for the project.

Michael left the Meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by: Helen

Seconded by: Darlene

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee enter Closed Session to discuss a possible financial opportunity to raise funds necessary for the Regional Broadband project . CARRIED.

The Committee returned to open session at approximately 5:10 p.m.

The Committee discussed the need for a public meeting regarding the Regional Broadband project and the challenges to having such a meeting during the pandemic. Darlene recommended approaching Chambers of Commerce to get the word out.

Darlene will obtain the Penokean Hills contact information.

Nancy provided the Committee members with a copy of the email from Joanne Falk, respecting the meeting mentioned earlier with a group of ratepayers.

Moved by: Helen

Seconded by: Darlene

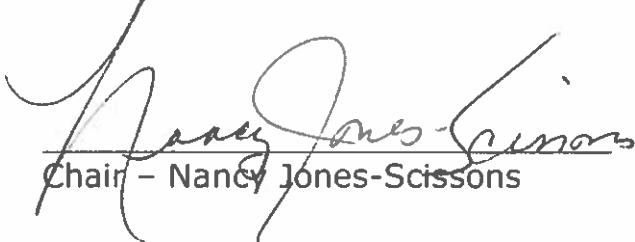
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ad Hoc Broadband Broadband Committee adopt the Minutes of the August 25, 2020 Meeting. CARRIED.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held November 12th.

Moved by: Helen

Seconded by: Darlene

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ad Hoc Broadband Committee adjourns at 5:44 p.m. CARRIED.


Chair – Nancy Jones-Scissons


Secretary – Deborah Tonelli