

Municipality of North Cowichan Economic Development Committee MINUTES

February 23, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room

Members Present

Mayor Rob Douglas
Councillor Bruce Findlay
Councillor Chris Istace

Staff Present

Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services
Talitha Soldera, General Manager, Corporate Services
Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist
Tricia Mayea, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held October 30, 2023.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Crofton Mill Closure and Next Steps

Mayor Douglas provided an update on the Crofton Mill closure and next steps.

4.2 Community Wealth Building

Heather Hachigian, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of Business, Royal Roads University, provided a presentation on Community Wealth Building and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the presentation is available on the municipality's website.

4.3 Economic Development Action Plan

George Farkas, General Manager of Planning, Development and Community Services, provided a verbal update and shared key themes from the Economic Development Action Plan engagement findings.

Jamie Vann Struth, Deloitte Consulting, and Gil Yaron, Lighthouse Consulting, presented interim findings in the development of the Economic Development Action Plan and answered questions from the Committee. A copy of the presentation is available on the municipality's website.

4.4 Summary of the Circular Economy Accelerator Program

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Economic Development Committee support the continuation of the Circular Economy Accelerator Program and recommend that Council direct staff to:

1. Provide a Letter of Intent to Synergy Foundation to signal our continued interest in program participation; and,
2. Allocate \$15,000 from the Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve Fund for the Circular Economy Accelerator Program, to secure space for three North Cowichan businesses in the 2024 cohort and three North Cowichan businesses in the 2025 cohort.

(Opposed: Findlay)

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 3:21 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair