

Economic Resiliency Task Force  
**Meeting Minutes**  
September 2, 2020  
(September 3 meeting was cancelled due to no attendees)

**PRESENT:**

John Powell  
Jessie Olsen  
Jerrilyn Schembri  
Mila Lansdowne  
Ronke Solomon

**ABSENT:**

Mayor Keith Bertrand  
Councillor Joanne Kirby  
Councillor Will Howe  
Helen Scott  
David Durrant  
Tim Croston  
Sherri-Lynn Hewitt

1. Call to Order: 9:01

2. Approval of Agenda: Ronke & Mila

3. Approval of July 29 & 30, 2020 minutes: Jerrilyn & Ronke

4. Business arising from the minutes: None

5. Old Business:

- Fridge Magnets: Complete. All but 40 mailboxes are in use – Canada Post kept the extras there to put into newly opened mailboxes.

- Community Forest Update: They have looked into the firewood situation, potential of some availability but unsure at this point. Also investigating potential of purchasing property for a small sawmill.

- Dinosaur auction: The museum investigated but the cost was beyond their budget. They are looking at the possibility of getting something custom made instead.

6. Economic and Community Resiliency Projects:

- Update report from EDO: Based report on the categories that Mayor Bertrand identified. Looking to narrow the scope of projects. Potential of sub-committee to take on some of the projects. EDO would support it but not take the lead on all projects. How should we move ahead? Approach other groups such as Building Healthy Communities to take on projects or form a sub-committee from the ERTF members? If John has the approval of the board he will ask those other groups to take on these sub-projects. John approached Councilor Norbury about the newsletter – who is this newsletter going to be directed to? Seniors? Low income? John asked Chris to help figure out who is not being reached by online communications. Suggestion to combine it with the seasonal flyer the CC produces, or to add it to the RidgeLines newspaper. What will the scope of information included be? More conversation needed. Collaboration with the EDO and CC? Need to make sure we have the capacity. Website – the COVID-19 Toolkit was quite successful and one of the top 2 pages on the Invest TR site (Google Analytics) through the past 6 months. The EDO has created an ERTF page (not yet published).

- Connectivity: Continued conversations on this topics going on with regards to fibre optics, new Steve Tory is looking at new avenues to explore.

- Business supports: Consultant coming to TR to work with John to populate Executive Pulse software. Business walk sometime in the next month(s). It is mentioned that businesses feel like nothing comes of the business walks, businesses feel like they answer the questions but nothing is done and that some businesses

were missed the last time it was done. A complaint from the Chamber's business walk was the price of garbage and recycling – not sure where this situation stands, John will look into it. Solutions need to be demonstrated not just promised. Downtown co-ops, co-working spaces, hoping to get some quality data. Looking at some lunch and learn workshops. Looking into BCEDA business resiliency workshops. NDIT webinars upcoming.

- The Chamber had its first in person meeting since COVID – max 10 spots due to restrictions, online registration. It was for people looking for information on retraining and info from Obair Society. Great interaction from attendees, ages 25 to 65 or 70, many of whom have been laid off. Obair looks at barriers and how to overcome them, goal-setting, process to reach goals, funding, subsidize training costs/wages, practical soft-skills training. They are collaborative and work with other organizations and businesses. All government funded. Ronke will refer food bank clients who are looking at this type of training/assistance to Jerrilyn to put them in contact with the Obair Society.

#### **7. Round Table Updates:**

- Jerrilyn: Business Façade grants: \$4000 for exterior renovations, \$1000 for PPE. 4 businesses received the façade grant and 2 got the PPE retrofit grant. Grant writing has brought in close to \$1 million in grants this year.

- Ronke: 240 food boxes shipped and distributed, working with Marsha Dufrense. 180 boxes going out before the end of September.

- Mila: Visitor Guide advertising (sharing the opportunity with her network). Mila asks about TR getting a new dentist? John reports that there have been some potential dentists, some are apprehensive because the current dental office in a house is only a temporary business license location permit (goes against zoning bylaws and OCP). John looking into a location that could house other types of health services like acupuncture, physiotherapy etc.

#### **9. Next meetings: September 9 & 10, 2020**