

Alliston BIA Board of Directors Meeting MARCH
Thursday March 2, 2017
Alliston BIA Office
Chair Mike Jerry

MINUTES

Attendance: ABIA Chair Mike Jerry, Vice Chair Sherry Ward, Secretary/Treasurer Ro Davoodian, Director MacKenzie, Deputy Mayor Jamie Smith, Colleen Brinston, Ryan Fox. Guests: Councillor Whiteside, Councillor Sainsbury, Councillor Biss.

Regrets: Director McGurk, Director Stubbs, Councillor Beattie

Welcome

Chair Jerry welcomed all and thanked everyone for coming.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda

Director Lachlan McGurk sends regrets and sent proxy to Secretary/Treasurer Davoodian.

Director Julia Stubbs sends regrets sent proxy to Vice Chair Ward

Motion to approve Agenda: Director MacKenzie, Second: Vice Chair Ward : Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None noted

Amendments and Approval of Previous Minutes (February 2017)

No changes

Motion to approve Secretary/Treasurer Davoodian, Second Director MacKenzie : Carried

ABIA Good News shared by Directors

Treasurer Report

- No invoices to present – accounts payable up to date.
- The re-payment will be paid back to the reserve account right away.

General Manager Report Update

- Information on our ABIA 2017 initiatives and events – 90 day report / update attached.

Communication Pillar:

Chair Jerry spoke to the progress on our ABIA WIFI project. That Director McGurk is looking into another provider that would be more cost effective. That most of the towns that have WIFI are supported financially by that Municipality and not just the BIA.

WIFI: Deputy Mayor Jamie Smith suggested there is money available at Federal /Provincial/County level who plan to put up WIFI throughout the Rural areas and towns. Gerry Marshall the warden is responsible for this project.

Councillor Sainsbury suggested the ABIA send a letter to the Warden regarding the WIFI and that Alliston receives the money to support our downtown WIFI initiative. Alliston BIA to send letter requesting funding.

Council Report

Items for discussion with Councillors:

1. Building/Business permits and process to obtain permits – point of contact. Blaine Perkin and keep council informed.

ABIA has had complaints from new business regarding the difficulty of getting permits
Blaine Parkin: is responsible for building department. The ABIA would like a description from Town staff on the steps to get permit and all by laws. If the project is \$25000 or less the town has right to waive site plan but any business over is required to have site plan. Planning Department has fold outs that the ABIA can leave in our office.

The ABIA Directors feel there should be one champion to answer and direct ANY questions that come to the town regarding business. AIBA to send email to council requesting that they instruct staff that the first point of contact in every case be with the Town's Economic Development office (Katie Bagshaw).

2. Parking Limit bylaw in downtown Alliston.

2 hour parking limit - Chair Jerry shared that a Barb's Clothes Closet customer was issued parking ticket due to complaint.

The Alliston BIA Wants to increase the by law to 4 hours, as 2 hours does not allow for enough time for visitors to shop, eat, access medical appointments, or visit the Theatre, Dance School etc.

This bylaw is under direction of the Engineering Department – Rick Vatri - ABIA to make request to council to increase the parking limit. GM Spurr to draft letter.

3. Town of New Tecumseth Local procurement.

GM Spurr had shared that the ABIA has been trying to direct Town Staff to local businesses when it comes to procurement. While we understand that there is a policy and procedure as to the RFP process, we would like the Town Staff to ensure that the local businesses (the vary businesses who are paying Municipal Taxes and supporting the Economic Development of our Municipality) are included in the process. Councillor Whiteside suggested that ABIA Direct inquiries to Lori Bedford and Lori Archibald. That ABIA send list of local members to be put on approved list.

4. Alleged illegal home based businesses.

ABIA will not support any illegal business operating within the town.

Deputy Mayor Smith suggested that there should be a "Stop Gap by law" to stop restaurants in residential areas. This new by law that town staff are working on will be in black and white within the next month – Bruce Hoppe is the contact person. ABIA to send email to see when this will be available and copy in Blaine Perkin.

5. Downtown retrofit for Alliston

Town Meeting Place and River front cleanup

- IE: Examples of Towns already working on revitalization: Midland, Orangeville (No tax relief on vacant buildings).

ABIA envisions: Good condition sidewalks and roads, full foliage Trees, blooming flowers and a hard legislation on what the buildings look like for the downtown. A downtown meeting place and the Boyne River a focal point. ABIA to prepare a vision plan similar to Orangeville and Midland. Councillor Sainsbury suggested there is a Liability with the branches etc in the Boyne.

Councillor Biss shared that he has taken on this project and coordinated with Community Groups and some Businesses the clean up of the Boyne River. However he said there is a lot of stakeholders and some who are very protective of the current state of the area.

Create a vision, share it and make it happen...

NVCA has their own policy with regards to the Boyne. Parks and Recreation can help to clean up the Boyne. Chair Jerry asked who was on the board of NVCA: Councillor Biss shared The NVCA; director Donna Jebb, Gail Wood is the CAO

Councillor Biss shared that the Boyne River Clean up this year is May 13th. Marc Biss coordinates with Parks Department and requested help from the Alliston BIA members.

Suggested by ABIA Chair Mike Jerry that this project becomes a line item in Town budget for future years as it is so important to our economic development.

Councillor Whiteside suggested that the BIA send a request to Council at start of budget process in 2017 (August 2017).

Tax relief is Provincial

Follow up with our area MPP regarding tax relief on vacant buildings. The ABIA feels that there should not be a tax relief on vacant buildings as it does not encourage landlords to find tenants. ABIA to also look into MPAC assessments. Alliston BIA to send letter to MPP to present to parliament.

6. Traffic lights on Victoria Street and King Street.

Secretary Davoodian suggested that coordinating the lights through Victoria Street will help encourage downtown shopping and also foot traffic at crossings. Vice Chair Ward supported this statement suggesting that coordinating the lights would help traffic flow and possibly detour Transport traffic. (see below at #8 cross walk for direction).

Deputy Mayor Smith shared that on the corner of King and Victoria there is a proposed Car wash, variety store and gas station business designated for this area. Traffic study for that specific corner did not include traffic going South on King. Deputy Mayor Smith also suggested that there should be a barrier at Victoria and King so that you cannot turn into the gas station from Victoria St. for safety and to ease congestion.

Councillor Biss shared that King Street will be re-paved under Simcoe County project, and urbanized with curbs, gutters and parking.

Alliston BIA to send a letter inquiring per January deputation as to when traffic light coordination will be completed.

7. Church Street study.

Councillor Whiteside shared that this is In budget in 2017

Church Street Study – ABIA chair Jerry suggested that the ABIA directors will gladly share their input of the study and encouraged councillors to advise their staff of the ABIA Director's interest. Contact person for these projects is Adam Lucas.

It was also shared that the Simcoe County is working on plans for a project to create a bypass that runs all the way from Cookstown to Adjala, therefore omitting traffic from both downtown areas of Cookstown and Alliston. Alliston BIA will oppose this bypass diverting around Alliston.

8. Crosswalk at Mill Street & Victoria Street.

Secretary / Treasurer Davoodian suggested that a push button cross walk at Mill street & Victoria St. be put in for safety of visitors who try to cross there especially during the Farmers Market and ABIA Signature Events. ABIA to send an email to Rick Vatri to coordinate lights and for consideration of a cross walk at Mill Street

Would like the traffic lights to coordinate with all lights to promote stop traffic
Engineer department – Rick Vatri

9. Banting Memorial High School move

The Alliston BIA does not support this move and has met with MPP Jim Wilson who understands this and will support Directors. The Alliston BIA expects Councillors to support the ABIA's data.

10. How can the ABIA assist each Councillor with their contributions and strategic plans for their ward?

Councillor Whiteside: Shared that he has been working with a successful business already located downtown Alliston but wants to purchase vacant land and re-build for new business. He said that the business has made an offer to the property owner of ACE Rentals and was turned down. Councillor Whiteside wanted to know if the ABIA might get in touch with ACE Rental owners to get more information. It was shared that Director McGurk was already investigating this with the same business owner. Councillor Whiteside shared that the residents of Alliston are subsidizing the water and sewer in Tottenham and Beeton.

Councillor Sainsbury spoke with the Alliston Creamery to beautify the front of their building so that Dominion Street is not a back ally but rather a nice walkway as many visitors park back there.

Town has secured engineer and an architect for design of the new Town administration centre. The old town office is up for sale and library is also up for sale. Current Town CAO last day is March 31st.

Councillor Biss – Is organizing the Boyne River Clean Up on May 13th, 2017. Would like the ABIA members to help.

ABIA Chair Jerry informed Councillor Biss that we would share this event with our members and encourage help.

11. Funding for Dog Park.

ABIA Chair Jerry questioned how quickly this item was passed and wondered why the BIA's who promote Tourism and Community improvement only receive about \$3000. Each, But funding for a dog park (in a community that has several open fields), at about \$50,000. is so quickly passed through Council.

Councillor Whiteside did confirm that the 2017 budget did include expenditures on a dog park in Beeton and that it was financed with money transferred from the Parkland Reserve. He added that the total cost suggested for the project had not been included in the 2017 capital budget.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn - Secretary/Treasurer Davoodian;
Meeting adjourned