



Working together with our community

## **Downtown Revitalization Meeting Minutes**

The Corporation of Norfolk County

September 12, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

AmCan Board Room, 185 Robinson Street, Simcoe

Present: Michelle Balan (Simcoe BIA), Joe Botscheller (Simcoe BIA), Linda Branderhorst (Simcoe Chamber of Commerce), Cam Carter (Simcoe BIA), Melissa Collver (Norfolk Heritage & Culture), Fritz Enzlin (Norfolk Building & Bylaw), Chris Garwood (Norfolk County), Clark Hoskin (Norfolk County), Heather King (Norfolk County Public Library), Jim Norman (Delhi Chamber of Commerce), Heidy VanDyk (Social Housing), Ted Willey (Norfolk County).

### **1. Welcome**

Clark Hoskin chaired meeting. Minutes from July 31, 2019, were reviewed.

### **2. Updates**

#### **A. Downtown Simcoe BIA**

Cam Carter reported on successful annual meeting and clean-up event. Projects underway include mural program, security cameras, alleyway gravel, lighting, Panorama projects. Culture Days scheduled for Sept 27-29.

#### **B. Allocation of 2019 Budget**

Cam reported that Simcoe BIA has been getting quotes on projects and monitoring budget allocation to ensure the projects stay in budget.

- **Follow Up:** Simcoe BIA to ensure invoices are made out to Norfolk County. Projects must be completed and paid by Dec 31, 2019.

#### **C. Delhi**

Jim Norman reported Delhi Chamber interested in applying for provincial funding in two phases: strategy and implementation. The Chamber and BIA also wish to address storefronts used as residences. Delhi Sharing Pantry usage has decreased.

- **Follow Up:** Delhi Chamber to send non-compliant addresses to Fritz Enzlin for By-Law to investigate. Heidy Van Dyk asked that if any tenants are affected, Social Housing be kept informed.

#### D. Simcoe Secondary Plan

No update.

#### E. Housing

Heidy Van Dyk reported potential new multi-residential developments in Delhi. Indwell in downtown Simcoe progressing. Simcoe BIA interested in design of the building, possibly including public washrooms. Fritz Enzlin reported building permits for former Maliboo property development are being reviewed.

- **Follow Up:** Heidy will connect Indwell with Simcoe BIA.

#### F. Library – Save Your Town Webinar

Heather King offered to host a webinar watch party at Simcoe branch featuring “Save Your Town – Creating Events People Will Attend”. She also circulated document on 101 ways to encourage small businesses in towns and a book about the development of a university in downtown Brantford.

- **Follow Up:** Heather and Michelle will discuss timing of watch party.

Heather reported St Paul’s Church fed 700 people at downtown BBQ. She recommended having churches talk about their efforts in downtown core.

- **Follow Up:** Work with Heather to invite churches to a future meeting.

### 3. By-Law Enforcement

#### A. Update

Fritz Enzlin answered questions about enforcement. Simcoe BIA concerned about garbage bags being left at curb too soon before pickup. Bylaw officers can enforce on complaint basis. It was agreed parking blitzes help. More “green P” parking signs would be helpful. Fritz reported a derelict vehicle was found near Pond Street and removed. It was suggested volunteers or by-law auxiliary could be established to help with communications or enforcement. Fritz will consider. Clark suggested Simcoe BIA work with Norfolk’s Communications Department.

- **Follow Up:** Fritz and Michelle will communicate about addresses for garbage infractions. Fritz will speak with Shawn Vanacker in Roads about installing more directional parking signs. Anyone wishing for action from By-Law Enforcement should call 519-426-5870 ext 6015.
- **Follow Up:** Simcoe BIA to contact Norfolk County Corporate Communications Department to help educate citizens about garbage days and parking blitzes.

#### 4. Public Works

##### A. Governor Simcoe Square Upgrades

No update.

#### 5. Initiatives

##### A. CIP Incentives

Chris Garwood reported fund has been depleted for 2019. Council will review a proposal to increase budget for 2020.

##### B. Vacant Building Registry

Chris is researching a bylaw to be reviewed by Council similar to other municipalities. The vacant building registry would only apply to non-residential properties and could spur absentee landlords to lease or sell their buildings.

##### C. Municipal Grants

Melissa Collver will review municipal grant process with Norfolk County senior leadership and hold public consultations.

##### D. Win This Space

The Win This Space initiative was discussed.

- **Follow Up:** Cam Carter and Chris Garwood will discuss a BIA space initiative.

##### E. Empty Storefront Tour

Ted Willey reported 3 properties were featured. 60 attendees registered. An offer was received on one of the properties. For future, it was recommended that the BIA or Chamber lead project and Norfolk County provide support.

##### F. Food Trucks

General feedback was people liked new location, more food trucks would be welcome, closer to downtown, and evening hours are better (4pm to 8pm) for farm workers in town.

##### G. Imperial Oil Property

No update.

##### H. Downtown Events

- Sept 14 – Tailgate Talent Show, 7pm, Simcoe Legion
- Sept 14 – Opening Reception, Photography: Tobacco Kilns of Norfolk County, Norfolk Arts Centre

- Sept 15 – Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Simcoe, 1:30pm, Norfolk Historical Society
- Sept 19 – Fall Doormat Class, Sloths & Molasses
- Sept 27-29 – Culture Days, Downtown Simcoe, Norfolk Arts Centre
- Sept 28 – Norfolk County Genealogy Symposium, Norfolk County Archives & Eva Brook Donly Museum
- Oct 1 – All Candidates Meeting for Federal Election, Simcoe Legion
- Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 29, 30, 31 – Guided Ghost Tours of Simcoe, Feeling Groovy Yoga & Metaphysical Studio, 46 Colborne St S, Simcoe
- Oct 5 – Peddler’s Marketplace, Melinda’s Enchanted Cottage, Governor Simcoe Square, 10am-5pm
- Oct 5 – Art Journaling Workshop, Norfolk Arts Centre
- Oct 6 – CIBC Run for the Cure
- Oct 8-14 – Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show
- Oct 15 – Stained Glass Workshop, Norfolk Arts Centre
- Oct 18 – Halloween Doormat Class, Sloths & Molasses
- Oct 19-Dec 7 – Portfolio Boost for Secondary Students, Norfolk Arts Centre
- Oct 19 – Dawning: Myth of a New Species Exhibit / Opening Reception, Norfolk Arts Centre
- Oct 25-27 – Routes to Roots Film Festival, Strand Theatre
- Oct 26 – Author Talk: Suzanne Cronkwright, Norfolk Arts Centre

## 6. Other Business

### A. Heritage & Culture Outreach

Melissa offered to attend Simcoe BIA meeting to communicate news from heritage and culture, including Norfolk County Archives & Eva Brook Donly Museum, and Norfolk Arts Centre.

- **Follow Up:** Melissa and Michelle to discuss Simcoe BIA meeting date.

### B. Panorama Decorations at Town Hall

Heather expressed interest in decorating Governor Simcoe Square with Panorama decorations in December. Simcoe BIA has some decorations and is working on a Christmas Decoration sharing program with other towns.

- **Follow Up:** Heather, Melissa and Michelle will discuss.

## 7. Next Meeting

October 31, 2019, 8:00am; Location: Delhi Tobacco Museum, Delhi.