



Minutes

Virtual Meeting, Petawawa ON January 11, 2022

Present:

Cindy Sell
Theresa Sabourin
William Grandy
Christina McFadden
Richard McNish
Portia Hoffman Strang

Regrets:

Val Hyska
Claude Tessier
Laura Hanek

Also Present:

Christine Mitchell

Welcome and Introductions

Richard McNish, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Theresa Sabourin
Seconded by William Grandy
That the agenda for the January 11, 2022 meeting of PBAN be approved as circulated.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Christina McFadden

Seconded by Cindy Sell

That the minutes of December 7, 2021, be approved.

Carried

Old Business

1. Business Grants/Programs and Resources

Christine reported that an e-news document was created and circulated on December 20, 2021. The following programs or resources are available to businesses and affiliate organizations.

- I. **Small Business Relief Grant:** [Ontario Covid 19 Small Business Relief Grant](#) is for eligible businesses subject to closures as a result of the province's move to the modified [Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen](#). They can receive a grant of \$10,000. If you previously qualified for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant you do not need to actively apply. Newly established and newly eligible small businesses will need to apply once the application portal opens. Portal for this application is expected soon.

Eligible small businesses include:

- restaurants and bars
- facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities (including fitness centres and gyms)
- performing arts venues and cinemas, museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions
- meeting or event spaces
- tour and guide services
- conference centres and convention centres

- II. **Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program:** New [Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program](#) will support businesses that are most impacted by public health measures in response to the Omicron variant. Eligible businesses that were required to close or reduce capacity will receive rebate payments for a portion of the property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these measures. Eligible businesses required to reduce capacity to 50 per cent, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50 per cent of their costs, while businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100 per cent of their costs. Applications will open January 18, 2022 and will be retroactive to December 19th. Businesses will have to submit property tax and energy bills as part of the application process.

- III. **Improved Cash Flows for Ontario Businesses:** Under these measures, business may be eligible to delay payments of provincially administered taxes, six-month interest free and penalty free fee periods. The eligible period will be January 1, 2022 to July 1, 2022.
- IV. **Canada Recovery Hiring Program**
- **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program (THRP):** The Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program which has a 40% threshold on current losses for last 12 month periods has been lowered to 25% per current month, not 12 month period comparable, and covers two wage and rent subsidy periods of December 12, 2021– February 12, 2022. This program applies specifically for businesses in the tourism and hospitality, arts, entertainment and recreation sectors.
 - **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program (HHBRP):** – The government has temporarily expanded eligibility and thresholds under The Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program. This wage and commercial rent support for businesses and other organizations is available under the Local Lockdown Program. This program is for entities who were subject to capacity-limiting public health restriction of 50 per cent or more. The threshold is also reduced to 25 per cent for eligible applicants who are applying over two wage and rent subsidy periods (24 and 25), December 19, 2021, to February 12, 2022).
- V. **Canada Summer Jobs 2022:** Eligible businesses and organizations who are seeking support for full time jobs for youth aged 15 – 30 and will offer a minimum of six (6) weeks and 30 hours/week jobs with an employment end date of September 3, 2022 maybe interested in making an application under the [Canada Summer Jobs](#) program. This is a Youth Employment and Skills Strategy program. **Applications due by January 25, 2022** and applicants should be notified by April 2022 of the status of their submission.
- VI. **2022 Summer Experience Program (SEP):** The Summer Experience Program provides funding to not-for-profit organizations, municipalities, Indigenous organizations, and First Nation communities to create career-related summer employment opportunities for students. The summer employment positions must focus on activities supporting key sectors within the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. SEP employment opportunities must offer training, work experience and skills transferable to the general workforce and to future careers. The positions must focus on activities that support **the key sectors of tourism, culture, heritage and sport and recreation**. **Applications are due by, February 15, 2022 and are available through the [Transfer Payment Ontario portal](#).**

- VII. **Francophone Job Creation Program:** The Francophone Job Creation program provides wage subsidy support of up to 50% for eligible hires after September 24, 2021 and before March 31, 2022. Applications are available through the local [Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation](#).
- VIII. **OHTO Skills Development:** The [OHTO Skills Development fund](#) can support tourism businesses with up to \$2,500 of financial support for projects in following categories, Digital Skillset and E-Commerce, Business Development Support, Customer Service and Recruitment & Retention. The funding must be used by March 31, 2022 and applications are accepted until funding is depleted.
- IX. **My Main Street:** This federal program, [My Main Street](#), has reopened the [Community Activator](#) fund for a second intake. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2022.
- X. **Staycation Tax Credit:** As part of the Ontario Government Fall Economic Statement the Staycation Tax Credit was introduced as a short term tourism support benefit. The 20% personal income tax credit can be claimed against eligible accommodation expenses in 2022.
- XI. **Community Improvement Plan (CIP):** Petawawa now has an active CIP program. Applicants interested in learning more about this local matching funds program should review the material provided on the municipal website at [Community Improvement Plan \(CIP\) - The Town of Petawawa](#). Christine reported that Fleurish was successful in their application presented to Council just before Christmas.
- XII. **Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce:** Christine spoke of the many discounts and incentive programs that chamber members can enjoy along with the discounted participation in many networking and industry led events. The UOVCC is currently running their annual membership and all businesses are encouraged to join or renew. More information can be found on the UOVCC [website](#).

2. Communications Protocol for Road Projects

An email dated January 6th, was received from Taylor Hanrath, Acting Manager of Infrastructure for County of Renfrew. The email provided a brief overview of the proposed work to be undertaken as the County of Renfrew completes scheduled bridge work on the Petawawa River bridge in 2022. WSP was engaged as the Bridge Design Consultant and Parthem as the Traffic Management Contractor. Bridge work will be completed in stages with alternating traffic flow using traffic signals. Work requiring full closure of bridge access

will be a provision of contract that permits such work only at night or weekends. Consideration and plans for pedestrian access are still being finalized.

3. 2022 Renfrew County Winter Games

The 2022 Renfrew County Winter Games, via media release dated January 7, 2022, has been officially postponed.

4. 25th Anniversary Town Celebration Activities

The Picnic in the Park event as part of the proposed 25th Anniversary is a concept that PBAN discussed in the December meeting. Members are very supportive of leading this initiative, an event which would encourage the public to come to one of three parks to enjoy a community picnic. The community would be encouraged to bring take out from their preferred local business, or a homemade meal, and enjoy that meal in one of the three park locations. Each park would have some animation to enhance the experience, yet to be determined. As additional incentive for the public to participate, we would look at offering a complimentary branded picnic blanket to the first eligible participants at each site. We are currently proposing sourcing 300 blankets for 100 to be distributed at each site. Additional giveaways and draws for participants unique to each site can also be organized. A budget proposal will be considered at next meeting.

Moved by Theresa Sabourin

Seconded by Cindy Sell

That PBAN will spearhead the community picnic event with staff support and once we evaluate the costs associated with the event we will propose and seek sponsorship from the business community.

Carried

5. Main Street Development Project Priorities

With the completion of the CIP and noted elements identified in the municipal leadership section, specifically, Gateway Signage Enhancements, Improved Signage/Wayfinding/Branding, Streetscaping of Petawawa Blvd., Promotion of Public Art and Waterfront Area Enhancements, Christine asked if PBAN had any initiatives that they would like to champion and see realized in the community. A number of thoughts were discussed in the December meeting which the committee would still like to see pursued. Theresa noted that the Accessibility Advisory Committee is completing a new round of Barrier Free Accessibility Audits and based on those results there might be some work proposed to address those gaps.

New Business

1. 2021 Year in Review

I. Openings/Ownership

- Dog House Brewing Company opened at 3477 A Petawawa Blvd.

- Kushy's opened at 3025 Petawawa Blvd.
- Capital Mortgages opened at 1027 Victoria St.
- Milano's Pizza reopened under new owner Jenny Hodgson at 3515 Petawawa Blvd.
- Hyska's YIG has assumed the retail space vacated by Conway Pharmacy and will be using it for their own retail purposes.
- My Mellow Vape opened at 2 Mohns Ave.
- Prairie and Luna Cannabis Co. opened at 3067 Petawawa Blvd.
- Victoria Mall at 20 Wolfe Ave. is under new local ownership
- Valley Creations opened at 1162 Victoria St.
- End of the Leash Pet Boutique opened at 3067 Petawawa Blvd.
- McDougall Insurance and Financial opened at 1047 Victoria St.
- Mount Molson Dairy Bar opened at 536 Laurentian Dr.
- The Velvet Blue Tattoo Company has opened at 1027 Victoria St.
- Fried Chicken Club and Gokumi has opened at the former KFC Petawawa location at 3025 Petawawa Blvd.
- Fleurish has relocated to 3191 Petawawa Blvd.
- Re/Max has relocated into their new building at 10 Canadian Forces Drive
- The Car Wash at 3519 Petawawa Blvd. is under new ownership

II. Closures/Retirements

- Northern Credit Union closed the Petawawa branch (May 2021)
- Bombshell's Tattoo closed at 1027 Victoria street and relocated to a larger location in Pembroke (May 2021)
- Tasha's Tattoo closed at 1162 Victoria St. due to military transfer.
- KFC Petawawa closed after 20 years.
- Glenegy has closed and Glen MacGillivray has retired.

III. Other/ In progress

- Fire at Mary Brown's Chicken leaves business closed pending completion of full repairs.
- Pizza Pizza was closed as a result of the fire at Mary Brown's Chicken and re-opened in October 2021
- Site Development Plans ongoing for owner of 1 Doran
- Site Development Plans ongoing for owner of 3482 Petawawa Blvd.
- New retail space conversion happening at 3241 Petawawa Blvd.
- Art-E-Motive has purchased the space at 2669 Petawawa Blvd. and is in the process of making the site ready for operations
- Sumo Sushi has indicated that they are going to complete the renovations and open at 3483 Petawawa Blvd. An approved site plan was adopted November 2019

IV. Business Milestones

- The Country Cupboard – 25 year anniversary
- The Shed – 5 year anniversary

- The Urban Lounge Salon and Spa – 5 year anniversary

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Information (Business Openings/Milestones/Celebrations)

- Quality Inn and Suites has sold to new owners. Friez Khan of Bolton ON who owns Banas Stone business has taken over this business. This is a first hotel for Khan.
- Banville Yamaha, located at 3133 Petawawa Blvd. is in ownership transition.
- Building permit has been issued for 3241 Petawawa Blvd. for the creation of a cannabis store.
- Razors Edge Barber Shop at 3478 Petawawa Blvd. is under new ownership by Mandi Kennel who is a former employee of this business.
- Hela Beauty and Medical Ltd. will be locating at 10D Canadian Forces Drive.

Events

- The first Sounds of Business scheduled for Looking Glass has been cancelled.
- Cabin Fever 2022 was planned as a mix of virtual and in-person activities. Proceeding with events will be dependent on provincial restrictions in place.

Round Table

Christina reported that the PMFRC Employment Services Petawawa office is open with limited hours with most of the program and services moved back to a virtual delivery. PMFRC is looking to collaborate with centres to deliver a boarder employment fair at the end of March. Lack of engaged labour force continues to be a challenge for employers.

Cindy reported that she was experiencing a brisk start to 2022 in the housing industry. She noted that there are currently 10 active total listings in Petawawa so inventory remains a huge challenge. The Re/Max offices are closed to the public due to this latest lockdown scenario. Cindy gave a shout out the volunteers of the Christmas Angels program for their community service.

William announced that his Tibb's Eve, planned for December 23rd had to be cancelled. He is hopeful that they can bring back this event this year. Bill thanked Richard of Dog House Brewing Co. for facilitating the cash refunds for advanced ticket sales. William inquired about the Digital Services program for additional assistance for area businesses. The program is in place until the end of February with no news on any additional funding allocation.

Theresa thanked each PBAN member for their service on the committee and their commitment to fostering positive relationships with the business community. Theresa reported that the Christmas Angels Day lunch program was very successful again this past year. Theresa noted that Council would be conducting the 2022 budget workshop on January 13th and that she

would be advocating for Community Improvement Funding and other initiatives supporting the business community.

Portia was pleased to report that hair and spa services were not closed during this latest round of pandemic measures, but limited to 50%. Portia also noted staffing shortages as a business challenge. Portia encouraged the use of the summer job program noting that she was able to acquire three students last year, two of whom remain employed with her.

Richard reported a very busy December and noted the support from the Shop Local campaign. Richard shared that he is now offering a provincial shipping solution and seeking an affordable Ottawa Valley shipping option. Richard reported that Dog House Brewing Co. would be part of the 2022 OVTA road map. Richard inquired about the signage program with MTO noting that finding the costing of those program details a challenge. Christine will circulate information to the members.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:44 am.