



Minutes

In-Person Meeting, Quality Inn and Suites, Petawawa ON October 7, 2025

Present:

Richard McNish, Chair
Jillian McLellan
Jamie Moody
Murray Rutz, Councillor
William Grandy
Lindsay Buszchak
Cindy Sell

Regrets:

Val Hyska
Christina Schramm

Also Present:

Christine Mitchell, Manager of Economic Development
Rudy Kadlec, Economic Development Coordinator

Welcome

Richard McNish called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Murray Rutz
Seconded by Jamie Moody
That the agenda for the October 7, 2025, meeting of PBAN be approved.

Carried

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Cindy Sell

Seconded by Jamie Moody

That the minutes of September 2, 2025, be approved.

Carried

1. Business Grants/Programs and Resources

E-News posts are circulated to registered businesses, and links are provided on the municipal website here: [Business E-News - The Town of Petawawa](#)

These e-news posts have been circulated since the last meeting.

- Business News September Edition 2 (September 15, 2025)
- Business News October Edition 1 (October 2, 2025)
- Multiple direct submissions related to the Petawawa Ramble

The following grants/ funding opportunities are open:

- The [Southern Ontario Fund for Investment in Innovation \(SOFII\)](#) loan program supports high-growth, innovative small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in rural and urban communities by offering loans.
- The [Apartment Construction Loan Program](#) provides low-cost funding to eligible borrowers during the riskiest phase of development: construction through to stabilized operations.
- McDougall Insurance [BIG Grant For Small Business](#) – awarding three grants with \$10,000 available.
- [Available funding opportunities from the Ontario Government | ontario.ca](#)
- [Canada.ca - Business Benefits Finder](#)
- Fastest Growing Companies in Eastern Ontario – deadline to apply is October 10th.

The following business events are coming up:

- Enterprise Renfrew County is hosting Bridges to Business Growth in-person workshops at various locations throughout Renfrew County on October 6, 15, 20 and 22nd. Here is the link for more details: [Workshops & Events | Enterprise Renfrew County](#)
- The Petawawa Ramble events are happening from October 16 to 19th. [2025 Petawawa Ramble - Harvest Festival - October 16-19 - The Town of Petawawa](#)
- The UOVCC is hosting several networking events, including a Murder Mystery Masquerade Cocktail Party on October 22nd at the Jubilee Lodge in Petawawa: [Murder Mystery Cocktail Party](#)
- Algonquin College is hosting the Fall Business and Leadership Conference on October 23rd: [Business & Leadership Conference, Algonquin College, Pembroke](#)
- The Ramble Business Awards and Connect event at the Petawawa Container Market on October 24th at 9 am. [Business Connects - Ramble Awards - The Town of Petawawa](#)

- **SAVE the Date:** County of Renfrew Economic Development Summit on November 25th

2. Public Information Session Norman Street In and Out – Kiddyland Development

A public information session was hosted, where the public could hear about options for the development and proposed work. At the open house, some people were initially apprehensive, but once they reviewed the plans with staff, they were happy to see the proposed enhancements to the space. Concerns over increased vehicle traffic were reviewed against the two design options provided. Attendees completed surveys, which favoured retaining and enhancing the multi-use playgrounds and retaining but reorienting the ball field.

Council received a presentation from staff and selected the road design titled Option 1 that included a median and pedestrian crossover. Small land encroachment matter remains unresolved, but in the hands of the lawyers. Letters are being fabricated and are due to arrive by the end of November and will be stored over the winter. An artist consultant has been engaged to assist with the development of the Expression of Interest framework to solicit artist interest in creating the artwork that will be overlaid on the Petawawa Letter Sign. Due to factors beyond staff control, the project is now poised to be completed in 2026.

Council approved the expense of the reorientation of the ball field in 2025. An RFQ and tender will be awarded with the work planned to be completed before the end of November. The parking lot off Herman Street will be looked at with consideration to provide as much additional parking as feasible.

Information (Business Openings/Milestones/Celebrations)

- Eva's Pizza opened in the former location of Milano's Pizza at 3515 Petawawa Blvd.
- Petawawa Kia is now under new ownership with Budd Mathieson as Dealer Principal. This is the second dealership for the Slaughter family
- Dante's Delicatessen will be located in the former First Choice Hair Cutters unit at 1011 Victoria St.
- Beauty Nails and Spa is open in the Petawawa Market Mall
- Rise Kind Holistic Health has opened at 7 Hilda St.
- Prairie and Luna are celebrating its 5th anniversary during the Petawawa Ramble
- Wolf Plaza has new owners, and the facility is 80% leased in verbal commitments.
- Algonquin Portage is working to add a café to extend seasonal operations.

3. Petawawa Ramble

Comments from the Chair voiced concern over the number of non-business-led events on the Saturday. There was a discussion that supports enhancing direction from the Ramble Committee. Feedback was also received regarding the "Fall for Petawawa Shopping Guide,"

noting that, for a first attempt, the enhanced joint promotion was excellent, but that there were not enough shopping options listed. Staff will use this feedback when developing the material for next year.

4. Veteran Business Vendor Expo

The Veteran Business Vendor Expo will be held on November 1 at the Petawawa Civic Centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring veteran-owned and operated businesses. The Town's Economic Development department is partnering with 104.9 myFM as media sponsor, providing radio and online ads as well as live cut-ins during the event. White Pine Bison signed up for the food service (The Shed is away that week), and JJ Staley is providing live music. Vendor fees will offset advertising costs, and registration will open soon to attract more retail vendors.

5. Merry and Bright – Holiday Tailgate

The ice sculpture is booked, and the Grinch has been booked in for the event. Mr. Chris & Friends will bring the characters, such as the Grinch. Beavertails will be on-site; Hot Stove is considering staying open for the market. Currently, 14 businesses have signed up to attend as Tailgate vendors. Doghouse will not be able to serve alcoholic beverages due to holiday celebration commitments at their expanded location. Staff will coordinate with the Petawawa Fire Department to relocate the fire pit closer to the heart of the event.

Round Table

Bill indicated that the SPCA fundraiser at Mount Molson was a positive fundraising initiative. The Shed's closing day is October 19th. Bill reported another great season, building on strong consumer engagement and a return customer base. Tibbs Eve planning is underway and will take place on December 20th at the Legion.

Lindsay reported that her business clients remain primarily out of town. Lindsay has been offering local gift certificates through a social media campaign in hopes of highlighting small businesses and marketing her mortgage broker services. Lindsay indicated that participation in these seems to have improved after a slump in the summer. Lindsay discussed a possible collaborative speed networking event at Dog House Brewing Company.

Cindy Sell reported that residential MLS sales in Petawawa from the Renfrew County Real Estate Board noted 246 residential sales year to date, with an average price of \$540,000, with an average of 24 days on the market. Total residential sales in Petawawa are \$128,070,000. Sales-to-list ratio is at 99%. Inventory is down slightly. ReMax Sponsored Mount Molson event from SPCA.

Murray provided an update on Council, noting many by-law updates and construction work underway. He noted that Festival Hall hosted summer youth programs and that there is a strong lineup of Christmas events available for the public to enjoy. The Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre continues to work through a new business model and recently upgraded weigh scale. At the outlet store, Murray reported extended hours to 5 pm on Saturdays and,

for the first time, opened 9 am to 4 pm on Sundays. Open on Sundays because of the potential to capture more of the market.

Jamie Moody indicated that he would be attending the Jr. Achievers event at Algonquin College, representing the hospitality sector. Jamie also indicated that he would be attending an outdoor trade show with Colin Coyle from town and Chris Neff from Laurentian Valley. September was a very busy month for the hotel. Jamie did share that he had a collaboration with Festival Hall to support accommodation for performers. He also noted that Choice Hotels supports the True Patriot Love Foundation. Jamie shared Jenz Journeys, an Instagram influencer who visited and experienced many local businesses, services, and activities in Petawawa and the area. This promotion provided excellent marketing. Quality Inn Petawawa won hotel of the year, regional highest guest satisfaction in Ontario, and Jamie received a leader of the year recognition honour from Choice Hotels Canada.

Jill reported attending the National Pet Conference. She noted that attendance was down as US suppliers were not there. They did, however, enjoy lots of incentives from the Canadian producers. Jill noted that they expanded their raw foods quantities, facilitated by the purchase of freezers from Hank and Hound, who recently closed their business. Jill noted slower sales than the previous July, August, and September sales, but sees October in recovery. Watch My 6 continues to work with a new staffing plan, with a backlog of 100 dogs waiting to participate in the program. End of the Leash will host a Pawtumn Festival sale during the Petawawa Ramble. They will turn over the store after Remembrance Day for Christmas in anticipation of Black Friday and Christmas sales engagements.

Richard reported an okay September for Dog House Brewing. They continue to navigate the public engagement in events. He reported that the Laurentian Valley Fall Flavours event was not successful this year; however, the Renfrew Craft Beer Festival was a huge success. Richard reported that Pints & Gourds was coming up on October 18th and that they are hosting a Halloween event on Halloween night. November has them busy with Christmas parties and other events. Richard addressed supply chain issues and equipment challenges, which have reduced their brewing capacities. Thursdays are Thirsty Thursday at the brewery to get people coming out. Richard noted his challenge to support his clients with limited operating hours at the food truck in the parking lot and his delay in getting his food ordering kiosk from Valley Eats.

Adjournment

Moved by: Jamie Moody

Seconded by: Jill McLellan

The meeting adjourned to the call of the Chair at 11:23.

The next meeting will be on November 4, 2025.