

Antrim County

Economic Development Corporation

Mission Statement: Retain, expand, and promote County-wide economic growth and stability.

February 19, 2019 Minutes

Members present: Sherry Comben, Dave Heeres, Mike Allison, Rachel Krino, John Meeske, Kathleen Peterson, Bonnie Robbins
Members Absent: Pete Garwood, Veronica Welter
Others Present: Mathew Cooke, Andy Hayes, Hannah Sanderson, Seth Gernot

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mathew Cooke, County Administrator.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Organizational Meeting

Mr. Cooke chaired the organizational portion of the meeting.

Election of Officers

Nominations for President:

Sherry Comben nominated Mike Allison for President of the Economic Development Commission (EDC).

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by John Meeske, to close the nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Mike Allison for President of the Antrim County Economic Development Corporation.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Nominations for Vice-President:

Sherry Comben nominated Rachel Krino for Vice-President.

Motion by Sherry Comben, seconded by Dave Heeres to close the nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Rachel Krino for Vice-President of the Antrim County Economic Development Corporation.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Nominations for Secretary:

Bonnie Robbins nominated Kathleen Peterson for Secretary.

Motion by Rachel Krino seconded by Dave Heeres, to close the nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Kathleen Peterson for Secretary of the Antrim County Economic Development Corporation.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Meeting Dates and Time:

Motion by Bonnie Robbins, seconded by Kathleen Peterson to hold monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Motion carried – unanimous.

Mike Allison chaired the remainder of the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Bonnie Robbins, to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018 as presented.

Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) Update

Andy Hayes, NLEA President, announced that Janet Koch has moved on from NLEA to Wexford County as the County Administrator. Mr. Hayes said they are still committed to reporting to the EDC. He distributed an inflow and outflow count sheet for job distribution. The sheet shows how many people come to Antrim County to work, live and work in Antrim County, and those who live in Antrim but leave.

Mr. Hayes updated the Corporation on the efforts to bring broadband to Antrim County. He said the smaller population of the County makes it difficult to attract private investment from companies. He indicated there is fiber that is currently available to government, schools, and hospitals. He said they have found a way to tap in to the fiber's backbone, which could be used for business because of NLEA's economic development non-profit status. Mr. Hayes spoke about the Broadband Consortium agreement, which is progressing with member counties joining.

Rachel Krino asked about TruStream and how the NLEA Broadband Consortium works. Mr. Hayes said that GLE is running a pilot in Emmet County to provide internet to rural areas. Currently, the internet will be accessible only to Great Lakes Energy (GLE) Customers, while the Consortium may be able to help others.

Ms. Comben asked about the NLEA's sustainability now that Emmet County has withdrawn their support. Mr. Hayes said Emmet County's decision came down to money, but they are still in negotiations. He also indicated the NLEA had a reserve fund, which will help. Mr. Hayes said they have learned to be more informative at the County level.

Hannah Sanderson, NLEA Business Attraction and Growth Specialist, spoke about the NLEA summer internship program. She said the interns will be working on marketing packages for "shovel ready" development sites, some of which are in Antrim County. Ms. Sanderson also provided information on an "entrepreneurial tool kit." This has much information to help new businesses develop.

Pete Garwood entered the meeting at 9:52.

Seth Gernot, one of the winners of the 2018 Pitch Night, spoke to the Corporation about the winning pitch for Yoga Bellaire.

7. 2018 EDC Annual Report

Mr. Cooke included a draft copy of the annual report in the agenda packets (see attached pg. 8). The EDC reviewed the report.

Motion by Krino, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the EDC's 2018 Annual Report and present it to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Annual Review of Strategic Plan

The Corporation reviewed the Strategic Plan. Ms. Krino asked whether the EDC could join local area chambers of commerce. Discussion ensued, and this will be a future agenda item. Mr. Hayes suggested inviting all local chambers of commerce to a future meeting to learn what they are doing.

Motion by Kathleen Peterson, seconded by Rachel Krino, to approve the EDC's 2019 Strategic Plan as presented.

Motion carried - unanimous

9. Various Matters / Public Comment

Ms. Krino spoke to the committee regarding events in Bellaire.

- Art in Ice in Downtown Bellaire – March 8, 2019: \$5/ticket,
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner – May 14, 2019

Bonnie Robbins informed the committee that the Alden Bar was sold.

Mr. Allison said the Mancelona Master Plan was approved and is ready for distribution. He said the Mancelona Downtown Development Authority is working with the township on a project and the Safe Routes to School project is progressing.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.