



Brant Connects Committee Minutes

Date: November 6, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
7 Broadway Street West
Paris, ON

Present: Mayor David Bailey, Councillor Miller, Members Morton, Member Farrant, and Hunter

Regrets: None

Staff: Rickert, Bernstein, Gable, and Allison

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1. Attendance

Attendance was taken.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by David Bailey
Seconded by Member Farrant

That the Brant Connects Committee agenda of November 6, 2024, be approved.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None.

4. Delegations / Petitions / Presentations

4.1 Steve Spink, NetOptiks

Steve Spink and James Nagle, GrandBridge Group, appeared before the committee and presented on Netoptiks. They presented on their mission, vision, values, and

corporate structure. They further presented a background and service portfolio for Netoptiks, and used cases from the City of Brantford as a comparator.

In response to questions, J. Nagle advised that they are looking to partner with the County of Brant, noting that they do not supply residential services, only business to business.

5. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings

5.1 Brant Connects Committee Minutes of September 4, 2024

Moved by David Miller
Seconded by David Bailey

That the Brant Connects Committee Minutes of September 4, 2024, be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Member Farrant advised that of a CRTC ruling that ISPs are to share their infrastructure, and that new networks are exclusive to the installer for five years. He noted he requested clarification from the CRTC.

7. Staff Reports

7.1 Downtown Wifi Project Update

Zach Gable, Director of Economic Development & Tourism, updated the committee on the Downtown Wifi Project, noting that there have been 1,500 unique visitors since its introduction in July, 2024.

James Rickert, Director of Business and Technology Solutions, advised that staff are working with Operations for the new Downtown Paris core and will be looking to expand the project in the future.

In response to questions, J. Rickert advised that new hardware will be going in the ground.

7.2 CIRA Project Update

J. Rickert provided an update to the committee on the CIRA project, noting that communications staff are working on templates for a media release.

7.3 Open Access

Councillor Miller noted that ISPs who are sharing infrastructure typically would not be available for rural areas, and that it works better with high density.

7.4 Dealing with Leducor Issues

Councillor Miller advised that calls from residents have been received regarding Leducor and the state in which they have left properties. He further advised that Leducor has provided a contact hotline.

J. Rickert to advise Heather Fair, Administrative Coordinator.

7.5 Process for residents excluded from ASHIP and without broadband

Councillor Miller advised that ISO relies on provincial mapping, and that ISO will not take action if the mapping is incorrect. He further noted that residents may contact the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) through the [technical assistance team \(TAC\)](#)

for action, and to include correspondence from the ISPs that serve the house confirming that premise is not serviced.

7.6 SWIFT Update

Councillor Miller provided an update on SWIFT, advising that all projects were completed on time and on budget. He noted that SWIFT 2.0 will be involved in the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program to fill in the gaps, and that the program will be completed by 2025.

J. Rickert advised that there were approximately 14 calls, 6 emails, and 5 walk-ins received by the County pertaining to internet issues.

8. Communications

Moved by David Miller
Seconded by Member Farrant

That all communications and presentations from the Brant Connects Committee meeting of November 6, 2024, be received as information.

Carried

8.1 Brant Connects Committee Letter Regarding Committee Review Decision - H. Boyd & M. Connor

8.2 Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule - B. Allison

9. Other Business

None.

10. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Committee adjourned at 2:00pm to meet again on January 8, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the County of Brant Council Chambers.

Secretary