



MINUTES

Hespeler Village Business Improvement Area Board Meeting
Hespeler Heritage Centre, 11 Tannery St. E. Cambridge
May 13, 2026, 6:30pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

In-person: Andra Suciu, Tim Hilborn, Cory de Villiers,
Virtual: Marina Gigovic, Natasa de Villiers, Saul Resendiz

Regrets:

Ben Irwin, Laura Pearce, Mike Devine, Mike Napier

Guests:

Crystal Bechtel, Hespeler Reunion 2026
Vicky Firth, Melissa Francis Remax Team - Pet Portraits in the Park

Meeting Called to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone present, online and in-person, and called the April 2026 meeting to order at 6:33pm. Conflicts were declared by Cory and Natasa de Villiers regarding the two signage grant applications on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: April 2026

Motion moved by: Tim Hilborn

Seconded by: Natasa de Villiers

Abstained: None

In favour:

THAT the April 2026 minutes of the Hespeler Village Business Improvement Area Board Meeting be approved as written.

Hespeler Reunion 2026: Crystal Bechtel

- Many of the dates and times have been firmed up. Anything with a time listed on updated brochure, is confirmed.
- Art show at the old post office confirmed
- Walk Queen entertainment during the Hespeler Reunion will include the Hespeler Village Market from 3-7pm and live music from Aging Oak from 6:30-9:30pm on Friday and Hespeler Needs a Skate Park on Saturday from 11am - 3pm. Backyard games (cornhole, jumbo connect four, giant chess, etc.) will also be available on the street all weekend.
- Saturday - skate park on queen st 11am - 3pm
- Crystal dropped off 25 posters, with 4 different designs, to share with the businesses. Cory will hand them out.
- Andreas will go to Choun to photograph the new patio which was built especially to accommodate the Hespeler Reunion

Pet Portraits in the Park: Vicky Firth, Melissa Francis Remax Team

- Looking for the BIA's support for this family and pet friendly event at Forbes Park, June 13th from 11am - 2pm
- Proceeds support the Cambridge Humane Society
- They're collaborating with restaurants and businesses downtown to offer deals/special promotions to help increase foot traffic from the event to downtown
- Event will include pet portraits by a professional photographer by a \$10 donation, vendor market, grand prize and free giveaways from vendors, charitable \$5 nail trims, Pup cups from Remax
- Seeking partnership with the Hespeler BIA to help cover event fees, and ensure more proceeds go towards the humane society, similarly to that of the easter egg and halloween hunts.

Motion for the Hespeler Village BIA to sponsor the Pet Portrait event on June 13th.

Moved by: Cory de Villiers

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

All in favour: Andra Suciu, Marina Gigovic, Natasa de Villiers, Tim Hilborn, Cory de Villiers, Saul Resendiz

Chair Update - Cory de Villier

- Walk queen sponsorships have reached ~\$7,000 - our second highest!
- Programming this year focusses on Friday (Hespeler Village Market & Live music at Aging Oak's extended patio) and Saturday. No programming on Sundays due to many businesses being closed and wanting to concentrate sponsorship dollars to create the best impact. Saturday events will focus on returning favourites and new, larger vendors, with repeating dates where possible, to ensure people can come out and enjoy the events even if missed the first one. Queen Latin Music, Line Dancing with Urban Cowboy, Pickleball, Hespeler Needs a Skate Park, Galt Jazz (with an after party at the Village Social), wrestling event, and more.
- Signage Grant Application: Sushi Plaza, 35 Queen St E (formerly Bossa Nova) - The Board decided to revisit this next month as board members need to revisit the eligibility criteria, the submitted application pieces, and the remaining budget available for the grant.
- Also need an update regarding Ernie's signage grant which was approved in 2025 but not yet redeemed.
- Signage Grant Application: Village Tattoo - The Board decided to also revisit this application next month.

Treasurer Update - Ben Irwin

- Chequing balance: \$27,030.82 (\$19,683.33 prior period), \$7,347.49 increase:
- Deposits (Revenue):
 - The Village Social Inc. \$1,130 (Walk Queen Sponsorship)
 - Remax \$565 (Walk Queen Sponsorship)
 - Cheque year-end rec., City \$1,407.22 (Tax Levy)
 - 2nd Quarter, City \$5,112 (Tax Levy)
- Chqs (Expenditures):

- Chq 560 - Kelsey Vere - Wix Business Email (2026-2027), Wix premium 1-yr (\$586.98)
- Chq 555 - The Company of Neighbors - 2025 Meetings (\$280)
- Savings Balance: \$15,713.48 (15,739.55 prior period), decrease of \$26.07. Small interest income offset by fees. Ben looked into fees with BMO and they didn't know what they were in relation to. They suggested we speak with RBC as it is a withdrawal in relation to this bank, potentially Moneris / Tip Tap Pay.

Executive Director - Kelsey Vere

- Inaugural Steering Committee meeting for the Capacity Canada Strategic Plan will be scheduled soon with the Executives of the three BIAs.

Other Updates:

- September AGM date: Second Wednesday of September (Sept 9) to align with our monthly BIA meetings. Time and location to be determined.
- Garbage collection: Reminder of no Saturday pickup. Andra will speak with businesses and update them on options for upgrading size of bin, etc. to accommodate the reduced pick-up date. The Board will revisit how this is functioning at June BIA meeting. Need to follow up with Laura regarding the other options discussed with the Region if the no Saturday pick-up isn't working. Concern was expressed about adding more bins to contain the additional garbage and the existing bin storage issue. Concern was also expressed about the increase in garbage accumulation over the Hespeler Reunion weekend with no Saturday pick-up.
- Centennial Public School Community Picnic - not interested in a table this year.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is set for June 10, 2026 at 6:30pm at Company of Neighbours, 11 Tannery St. E, Cambridge.

Close of Meeting:

Moved by: Cory de Villiers

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

In favour: All

THAT the May 13, 2026 meeting of the Hespeler Village BIA Board does now adjourn at 7:53pm.

Chair – HESPELER BIA

Recording Secretary