



MINUTES

Hespeler Village Business Improvement Area Board Meeting Online - Google Meets February 11, 2026, 6:30pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Ben Irwin, Mike Devine, Tim Hilborn, Cory de Villiers, Laura Pearce, Kelsey Vere, Natasa de Villiers, Saul Resendiz at 6:50pm

Regrets: Mike Napier, Marina Gigovic

Guests: None

Meeting Called to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone present online and in-person and called the February 2026 board meeting to order at 6:33pm. A reminder of the code of conduct was given, no conflicts were declared.

Approval of Minutes: January 2026

Motion moved by: Mike Devine

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

Abstained: None

In favour: All

THAT the January 2026 minutes of the Hespeler Village Business Improvement Area Board Meeting be approved as written, with final adjustments to meeting times and motions made following this meeting.

City Update: Laura Pearce

- Financial Statements: Reminder to send KPMG prepared by client items ASAP as it's due March 15th. Laura to share auditor contact with Ben.
- BIA Modernization Review: Laura to provide a copy of the presentation to Kelsey who will distribute to BIA Board Members for review. Planning to submit final report and recommendations to council sometime before May. Feedback is required from BIAs beforehand so final edits can be made.
- Hespeler Business Owners Meeting with Mayor Jan Liggett, Feb 18th: Opportunity for Hespeler businesses to have direct dialogue with Mayor Jan, Councilor Devine and Cambridge city staff. Meeting on Feb 17th is to connect with Major Jan and WRPS about safety and support concerns in Cambridge.

Councillor Update: Mike Devine

- Election season is coming up.
- Motion made at council last week, which was not approved, to get money back from LRT. Approach was not appropriate.
- Forbes Park - 2 WWI plaques have been removed. City confirmed they did not remove, so Police have been engaged to investigate.

- City staff agreed to support the restoration of the Band Stand at Forbes Park and bring it back to its former glory with cedar shakes.

Chair Update - Cory de Villiers

- Business Updates:
 - Artisans Bodega closing
 - UK Law closed
 - Mallard Memorials closed. Servicing clients remotely but storefront closing
 - Optometrist opening in Mallard Memorials space
- Jacob's Landing Lighting Project has been unsuccessful in raising the necessary funds. We have until April to raise the \$25K to match the City's funds before they expire. Cory is unable to lead this project as he is leading so many others including Walk Queen. Engaged a third party contractor who did not meet obligations. Now turning to the Board to redistribute resources internally and/or strategize how else we can accomplish fundraising goal. Councillor Devine strongly recommends an extension on this deadline to April 2027, allowing us to promote it at the 2026 Hespeler Reunion. Laura to verify if able.
- Walk Queen plans begin for June 5 - August 13th, 2026. BIA to book large vendors on Saturdays and downtown businesses to organize activities on Fridays & Sundays. 75% of Saturdays are already booked, including:
 - Latin Music on Queen on June 6, July 4, Aug 1, and Aug 29
 - Euro Street Party on June 13
 - Urban Cowboy (does events at Gaslight District) on June 20, July 18 and August 15

Motion to approve expenses for Walk Queen 2026 at \$8,500 (to be raised with corporate sponsorships) as we did last year with the shortened season:

Moved by: Cory de Villiers

Seconded by: Mike Devine

In Favour: Natasa de Villiers, Saul Resendiz, Tim Hilborn, Cory de Villiers, Mike Devine

Treasurer Update - Ben Irwin

- Chequing balance is \$22,731.25 with the only changes being the Q1 Levy (+\$5,112.25) and the sponsorship for Winterfest 2025 (-\$2K)
- Savings balance is \$15,792.15 with the only changes being interest income and bank fees (-\$25.42)
- Bank fees outweigh interest income and therefore we are losing money just by having it in the bank. Ben to see if BMO or other banks have a better account option for us.
- Expense reimbursements:
 - *Motion to approve TipTapPay 6 month subscription reimbursement for \$118.65 which was paid through Cory's personal credit card.*

Moved by: Mike Devine

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

Abstained: Cory de Villiers

In Favour: Saul Resendiz, Natasa de Villiers, Tim Hilborn, Mike Devine

Motion carried.

- *Motion to approve GoDaddy Website Domains Renewal for 3 years at a total cost of \$255.10*

Moved by: Mike Devine

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

Abstained: Cory de Villiers

In Favour: Natasa de Villiers, Tim Hilborn, Mike Devine, Saul Resendiz

Motion carried.

- *Motion to approve donation to Company of Neighbours for hosting 8 BIA meetings in 2025 at \$35/meeting, totalling \$280*

Moved by: Mike Devine

Seconded by: Cory de Villiers

In Favour: Saul Resendiz, Natasa de Villiers, Cory de Villiers, Tim Hilborn, Mike Define

Motion carried.

- *Motion to approve annual Canada Post Mailbox Renewal at Shoppers Drug Mart for \$216.96.*

Moved by: Cory de Villiers

Seconded by: Tim Hilborn

In Favour: Saul Resendiz, Natasa de Villiers, Mike Devine, Cory de Villiers, Tim Hilborn

Executive Director Update - Kelsey Vere

- Full ED BIA Report available [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QNuin_z8VRJj_MEgC3Wv6nxOVfzxvuyog-nNguihprc/edit?usp=sharing):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QNuin_z8VRJj_MEgC3Wv6nxOVfzxvuyog-nNguihprc/edit?usp=sharing
- Facebook Monetization: BIA received payment via Kelsey's account for \$42.79CAD from Facebook's Monetization tool for engagement received Jul 1, 2025 - Nov 30, 2025. BIA to invoice Kelsey for this and Kelsey to pay by Email Transfer to treasurerhespelerbia@gmail.com. Monetization was turned off as we worked to reconnect payment to another source. Kelsey to turn this back on meantime.
- February BIA Business Newsletter was in Andra's spam. Kelsey to investigate ahead of future newsletter sends.
- Andra offered to do collab paid social posts with the BIA and Village Schoolhouse

Other Updates:

- Andra interest in helping with Jacobs Landing lighting project once she's a formal member
- Opportunity for 50/50 draw at Hespeler Reunion for JL Lighting Project

Next Meeting

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

Close of Meeting:

Moved by: Cory de Villiers

Seconded by: Mike Devine

All in favour: Saul Resendiz, Natasa de Villiers, Tim Hilborn, Mike Devine, Cory de Villiers

THAT the February 2026 meeting of the Hespeler Village BIA Board does now adjourn at 7:35pm.

Chair – HESPELER BIA

Recording Secretary