

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Beach Sub-Committee Meeting

January 14, 2014

There was a Meeting of the Beach Sub-Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Tuesday January 14, 2014. Present was Chair Mackie McLaren, Councillor Margaret Whyte, Robert A. Johnston and Sandy Black. Absent were Ralph Miller and Steve Osipenko. Staff present was Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Meeting to Order at 9:12 a.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of the Committee or Staff.

3. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2013 COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chair asked the Members to review the December 5th Meeting Minutes.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- Survey Questionnaires received to date

The Chair informed the Members that approximately 35 survey questionnaires have been returned to date. Cut off was not put on the form, but it has been noted in the Renfrew Mercury newspaper article that all responses must be in by January 31.

- Deposit returned for Farrells Landing Agreement

The Chair reported that the \$17,500 deposit amount has been returned by the owners of the Farrells Landing property that this Sub-Committee had been directed to consider.

- 911 number assigned and posted for Beach Property

The Chair reported that the new 911 number has been created and sign erected for the beach property. The Committee Members briefly discussed the fact that 911 emergency phone number will not work on the site. The telephone number to call dispatch directly rather than calling 911 in an emergency must be posted on the property.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- All Committee Member Responsibility

- Will there be a User Fee to use the beach? Different for Non-Resident?

The Chair referred the Members to the terms of reference that has been directed for all Committee Members to review as a group. The members considered whether there should be a user fee, and if so, would there be a different fee for a non-resident.

Robert A. Johnston asked what McNab-Braeside's fee for Burnstown Beach was. How long did they not have a fee and do they have a different rate for non-residents?

Sandy Black suggested that there be no fee at startup. Possibly consider a fee down the road.

Kathleen Rogers asked how we would charge local grandparents who bring grand kids from outside the Township.

The Committee Members agreed that they would not recommend a fee now and possibly later a fee could be charged. They suggested that the same fee be changed for non-resident as for resident to simplify the collection process.

- Plan for Public Meeting and Presentation at Meeting

The Chair quickly reviewed the responses to the questionnaire. Slight majority stated "no" at this point in time. The members discussed the need for a public meeting and agreed that a Public Meeting would be required.

Councillor Whyte suggested that we also hold a tour day in the summer, and the members supported this idea. They recommended the tour day be in June. The Chair said that the timing may not work as his goal is to complete the report and submit it to Council by the end of May.

The Members discussed the Public Meeting setup. The Members would be present to respond to questions on the terms of reference they researched. Councillor Whyte asked if we were presenting information or are we asking for public opinion. The Committee Members agreed that they would not get into a "For vs. Against" scenario. The Members will present information only. Kathleen Rogers suggested we prepare data from the information we have gathered to date and add pictures.

The Chair asked when to hold the Public Meeting. Robert A. Johnston said you can't get people to discuss summer issues in the winter months. Sandy Black said the Committee has lost time reviewing the second property given to us to review by Council so they should accept our need for a public meeting in June. After discussion it was agreed that the Public Meeting would be Wednesday June 4 between 7 and 9 pm in the Horton Community Centre.

The Chair asked if the meeting would be a Public Meeting or an Open House. Robert A. Johnston suggested an Open House. Councillor Whyte said there may be a need for a more formal presentation. Kathleen Rogers suggested having people write questions and place them in a box which is then answered by Members of the Sub-Committee. The Members agreed. Also coffee/tea and cookies would be available.

- Mackie McLaren and Margaret Whyte

- Will boat launching or docking facility be included?

Chair McLaren noted that it has been agreed that there would not be a boat launch as we don't want the traffic interfering with the public. However in the future there could be boat docking facilities but not in the first few years of operation. The Members agreed.

Robert A. Johnston said there is the need to make a section of the bay accessible by excavating. The area along the berm is to be graded for better access to the water along the Ottawa River front of the property.

Kathleen Rogers informed the Committee Members that Frank Latendresse has contacted her, told her he used to live in that area and has swum from this property to the sandbar island without difficulty. He would also volunteer.

- Kathleen Rogers
 - describe extra enforcement from Fire, OPP and By-law Enforcement

With the 911 sign now in place she will contact the Fire Department, OPP and By-law Enforcement for extra enforcement requirements.

- how many more Administration Hours required – from your Job Description?

Kathleen said she would anticipate that someone would have to organize the volunteers to maintain the property. Robert A. Johnston said that a volunteer could open and closed the gate. Summer student could do this. The site would be used 60 – 80 days max in a year. Councillor Whyte said the summer student could open/close during the week and a volunteer in the weekend. Robert A. Johnston said he could continue to cut the grass with his tractor.

Kathleen said it would take approximately 20 hours to set up but her time is really an unknown at this time. She said she would like to see some programs operate on a cost recovery basis at the site – day camp – kayak school – have some reason for people to attend rather than just picnic.

Chair McLaren asked if this would come under Kathleen's job description. The Members said yes. Kathleen agreed, but with added duties means 20 hour per week is not enough to do her job.

- Robert A. Johnston
 - To provide a cost to construct washrooms and change rooms for next meeting.

Bob Johnston said he will price out the cost to construct an outhouse that can be expanded to include a change room in the future. Councillor Whyte noted we have a cost for port-a-potty rental and cleaning. Chair McLaren asked if a change room was necessary. Kathleen Rogers suggested that people could change in the washroom. Councillor Whyte suggested that the change room didn't have to be extensive as long as privacy is protected.

- Will fencing be installed by volunteers?

Bob Johnston said yes, he will arrange for volunteers to construct the fence. Materials are on hand.

- Sandy Black
 - To provide what the development stages and timelines would be for the next meeting.

Sandy Black informed the Members that she has a worksheet that indicates what basic services will be offered in the first year of operation. She is anticipating 2015 would be the first year of operation. Councillor Whyte said she prepared opening costs to establish the road and property for initial years of operation. She had also provided a 10 year capital forecast. The Members agreed to discuss this report in further detail at the next Committee Meeting.

6. IS ANYONE HAVING DIFFICULTIES GATHERING INFORMATION FOR THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES?

Chair McLaren asked if anyone was having difficulty gathering information for their assigned tasks. Councillor Whyte said there is a need to contact Ontario Power Generation to change the information on the river current to velocity.

Robert A. Johnston said that the 2nd Reference Plan (Survey) still has to be located. The Chair will contact the Registry Office to access a copy.

MEMBER'S PRESENT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM LAST MEETING

Sandy Black submitted a list of capital items to start. There was no additional information presented by the Members.

7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The Members agreed to meet February 18, 2014 at 9 a.m.

At this meeting the Members will review the responses from the questionnaire. Bob Johnston volunteered to review and prepare the statistics on the responses received.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kathleen Rogers, Seconded by Margaret Whyte that this meeting be adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Carried

CHAIR

SECRETARY