

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Beach Sub-Committee Meeting

February 18, 2014

There was a Meeting of the Beach Sub-Committee held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Tuesday February 18, 2014. Present was Ralph Miller, Robert A. Johnston, Sandy Black and staff members Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager and Chair Mackie McLaren. Absent was Councillor Margaret Whyte (on vacation) and Steve Osipenko (at work).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McLaren called the Meeting to Order at 9:15 a.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee.

3. MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2014 COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair McLaren reviewed the January 14th Meeting Minutes with the Committee Members.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- Registry Office – copy of R-Plan of beach property

The Chair informed the Committee that he hadn't had an opportunity to travel to Pembroke and it looks like it will have to take a special trip to the Registry Office to get a copy of the missing survey plan.

- Estimate for Washroom/Changing Room construction

Robert A. Johnston suggested that it was too early to quote on a washroom. McNab/Braeside used a port-a-potty for 10 years before they spent the funds on constructing a washroom/change room. He said the beach could operate with a portable toilet for several years before a permanent washroom/change room should be considered.

5. BEACH SURVEY RESULTS

Chair McLaren presented the following information prepared from his quick review of the surveys that have been returned. Prior to the meeting, 107 surveys have been received out of approximately 1300 sent out. He suggested that this was a "fair" response. 130 or 10% response would have been an excellent response. He pointed out that since the information was prepared, two more surveys have been received.

Results

Would you and/or your family members enjoy having access to a beach/picnic area in Horton Township on the Ottawa River:

Yes 45 No 52 Maybe 10

This project could be developed and maintained largely with volunteer and/or in kind services. Would you be interested in volunteering or providing in kind services to enable this project to become a reality?

Yes 32 No 75 Maybe 1

Would you be in favour of Horton Council proceeding toward the development of a Beach/park facility?

Yes 50 No 53 not answered 4

Would you like a town hall meeting on this topic?

Yes 44 No 55

The Chair advised that many responses included comments that the Members should review and asked if any wanted to stay after this meeting to review them. Sandy Black said she would.

The Chair noted that Robert A. Johnston had previously volunteered to review the surveys and repair a report. He asked that Mr. Johnston review the surveys received, check his report numbers and summarize the comments. Mr. Johnston agreed.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE – CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF ITEMS LEFT FOR CONSIDERATION BY ALL MEMBERS

- What is the confidence level for usage?

The Members voiced different concerns to this question. Robert A. Johnston said that based on the high support to the survey questions, he anticipates that the property will be used. He expected to see the survey results as being a strong “no”.

Kathleen Rogers said based on the survey results it seems it will be used but not overly congested.

Robert A. Johnston said it was encouraging to see 33 people responded favorably to the volunteer help question. Sandy Black said it shows the public’s keenness to get a beach operational.

- If decision is not to proceed with beach development, what does the Township do with the land?
 - Retain it for future use?

Sandy Black said she would like to see the land retained for future use if it is not developed as a beach/park. The property is an investment and will only increase in value over time.

Ralph Miller said there were lots of costs now to be paid on the Recreational building expansion and the money from the sale of the property could be used for those costs.

Robert A. Johnston said he is not for selling the property. He recalled the former Horton Hall sold for \$2,100 by a former Council against the wishes of the Recreation community and when the original Community Centre (Sportsplex) was built a few years later it cost many times more than this. We don’t know if down the road people will want a park on the river.

Ralph Miller asked if the final decision will be made by this Committee or by Council. Chair McLaren said the Committee will report and make a recommendation with the final approval being Council’s.

Chair McLaren suggested that a consensus is not possible on the is question and rather than taking a vote by the Committee Members present, that the final report reflect the individual Members responses to this question. The Members agreed.

- Sell the land – what would sale proceeds be used for?

Kathleen Rogers said the money from the sale of the land should be used for the Community Centre construction.

Robert A. Johnston said Members of the community have a volunteer plan in place to complete the Community Centre addition and didn't propose we change that because of the volunteer hours he and several others have already put in. Fundraising arrangements have already been agreed upon.

Sandy Black said she does not support selling the land.

Ralph Miller said he has already submitted his comments in writing.

- Develop beach or sell beach and use funds towards cost to the project to enlarge the Community Centre

Robert A. Johnston suggested that if we sold a Public Works Dept. truck the money would not go to the Community Centre. Therefore if we sell the beach it should not go to the Community centre as this is a completely different thing. The beach should not be a taxpayers expense. It shouldn't be used to cover shortfalls in expansion plans.

Sandy Black said it would be foolish to sell the beach property.

Ralph Miler suggested that if the property was sold that the funds be put into a reserve fund.

Kathleen Rogers suggested the funds be used for expansion costs of the Community Centre.

Ralph Miller agreed and said that there are costs for purchasing materials that cost over and above the volunteer labour contribution to use the funds on.

Ralph Miller asked if there was an opportunity for the Committee Members to vote by secret ballot when the vote is called for to make a final recommendation to Council. Chair McLaren said his initial response is that a secret ballot is not permitted. The Procedural By-law does not permit Council to vote by this method and this Committee is a Sub-Committee of Council which means we follow the same rules, but he will research this question.

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

MEMBER'S PRESENT INFORMATION GATHERED FROM LAST MEETING.

No additional information was presented at this meeting. The Chair agreed to review all the documentation submitted by the Members and set out any remaining Terms of Reference that requires a response for the next meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- Michael Welsh

The Members reviewed a copy of correspondence received from Michael Welsh, an adjoining property owner, dated January 20, 2014. Members took exceptions to some of the statements made in the letter which concerned the property and its ability to be used safely. After discussion by the Members, the Chair was requested to draft a response to the questions set out in the correspondence for the Members review at the next meeting before the response is sent to Mr. Welsh. A copy of the correspondence is attached to these minutes.

9. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The Chair requested a date for the next Committee Meeting and noted that one of our Members will not be back from vacation until April 1. After discussion the Members agreed that the next Meeting will be held Friday April 4, 2014 at 9 am.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kathleen Rogers, Seconded by Robert A. Johnston that this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Carried

CHAIR

SECRETARY