

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Public Meeting
Beach Sub-Committee

July 3, 2014

There was a Public Meeting held in the Horton Committee Centre by the Beach Sub-Committee to receive public input into the future use of the “beach” property. Present was Chair Mackie McLaren, Councillor Margaret Whyte, Sandy Black, Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager, Steve Osipenko, Ralph Miller and Robert A. Johnston.

There were approximately 21 members of the public in attendance.

Prior to the Public Meeting, the Members hosted an Open House at the Beach Property. Approximately 30 people attended and viewed the property.

The Chair called the Public Meeting to Order at 7:40 p.m. He gave a brief review of the Committee’s organization and the Terms of Reference given by Council. He called for comments from the floor.

Rod Ballantyne said he was a neighbour of the beach property and the potential use of the property as a park and swimming area made him nervous as he is concerned about security. He thanked the Committee for their transparency throughout their review.

Bruce Golden asked about liability and liability insurance.

Judy Carr Tubman asked if the Ministry of Natural Resources would permit changes to the shoreline or to the bottom of the bay.

David Brown asked what the total financial implications would be for the taxpayers each year.

John Fuller asked if swimming in the faster water would be allowed.

Art White expressed concern with public safety because of the fast water. Suggests it would be just a matter of time before there is an accident. He recommended selling the property.

Eric Dougherty asked if there was hydro and cell phone service available on the property.

Judy Carr Tubman expressed concerns of safety without a life guard on duty. Teenagers will do whatever they want regardless of buoys or signage.

Bruce Golden asked if there would be “swim at your own risk” signs.

Willis Eady asked when the Committee’s recommendation and report will be submitted to Council.

John Fuller asked if the report will be available to the public.

Art White asked if a decision will be made by this Council or the new Council.

Helen Golden commented that the word “beach” is used, but in reality, there would be limited swimming. She asked if there was a drowning, who would be liable.

Utta Jamieson said she grew up on a beach with a strong current in Pakenham and there were no issues provided people swam at the beach and not in the rapids. She noted that the property is being used now.

Judy Carr Tubman asked what happens if there is no decision by Council to develop the property.

Art White said the water velocity changes constantly. Time, years and experience = respect and concern.

Rod Ballantyne said he had a concern with the large fast boats coming up Steam Boat Channel with speed if people were swimming in the vicinity of the beach property.

Members of the Committee responded to the public comments.

The Chair requested people to submit their comments on the form handed out at the beginning of the meeting before they leave this evening. Alternatively they could email their comments by Monday July 7.

The Members of the Committee thanked the public for expressing their concerns. The Chair noted that the Committee was meeting tomorrow morning (July 4) and there could be a recommendation made to Council at their July 8th Council Meeting. Once the report was made to Council it would become a public document and would be posted on the Township's website. It would then be up to Council to consider the recommendations in the future.

The Meeting was closed at 8:20 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY