

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Beach Sub-Committee Meeting

July 4, 2013

There was a meeting of the Beach Sub-Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Thursday July 4, 2013. Present was Chair Mackie McLaren, Ralph Miller, Councillor Margaret Whyte, Edgar Elliott, Sandy Black and Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager. Absent were Robert A. Johnston and Steve Osipenko.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McLaren called the Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.

2. MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2013 COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair McLaren had placed copies of the June 11 Meeting Minutes on the Members desks. He asked the Members to review the minutes.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

The Chair handed out updated Members Responsibility lists.

4. PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION COLLECTED TO DATE

Sandy Black - Public Health Testing

Sandy had contacted Mr. Ron Hartnet of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit who confirmed to her that the Health Unit tests water at beaches free of charge. They test once per week, taking 5 samples in total from the depth of 3 to 5 feet. If the test results are 100 E.coli or greater they resample and if the sample is still over 100 they shut down the beach for swimming until the counts are below 100. Mr. Hartnet said the Unit will test the water this summer before we have a beach for background information if we requested.

Kathleen Rogers asked if the Committee Members should accept the Health Unit's offer to start sampling the river water now. The Members agreed. Sandy Black will make the arrangements. There was the question if the road was passible after the winter and spring seasons. The Chair agreed to contact Robert A. Johnston to learn if he had travelled the access road this year, and was it passable.

Sandy Black - Whitewater Beach Closure

Sandy informed the Members that she contacted the Whitewater Region Municipal Office and spoke with the Treasurer. She was told that the Township's beach on Garden Lake was closed in the early 2000's. The Township owned the beach area but they did not own the access road and an issue arose whether the ratepayers had the right to use the private roads to access the beach. Their legal advice was to post the property for "No Trespassing" and closed the beach.

Kathleen Rogers - Burnstown Beach

Kathleen informed the Members that she visited the Burnstown Beach. They charge \$3 to park vehicles. They have a nice swimming area with markers in the water. They do not have a lifeguard or supervisor. It is not open during the week. They have a canteen. She would describe this property as a beach where Horton's would be a park as we don't have a sand beach area.

Margaret Whyte - Burnstown Beach – Capital Costs to Construct

Margaret reported that she had been in contact with Geoff Patterson, Recreation Director with the Township of McNab-Braeside who has reported on the following approximate numbers it cost them to construct and operate their Burnstown Beach:

- Fieldhouse construction \$110,000
- Special septic on site 20,000
- Play structure value 60,000
- Annual operating costs 20,000

Margaret also noted that he will send over copies of building and septic plans and costs for Red Pine Bay in Braeside in the near future.

Margaret Whyte - Ontario Power Generation – Water levels and Analysis of river current

Chair McLaren provided the following report on a telephone conference call Chair Whyte and he held with Marc Bisson of OPG at Chenaux Dam:

Councillor Margaret Whyte arranged for a telephone conversation with Marc Bisson of OPG at Chenaux Generating Station concerning water levels and analysis of river current that was set out by Council in the Terms of Reference. I participated in the call and the call was made from my office.

Mr. Bisson will provide the Sub-Committee with a historical series of discharge information from the dam at Chenaux. He said we will need this data to be converted into velocity. He explained that the Ministry of Natural Resources sets restrictions for water velocity along developments, which in our case would be the beach.

The Sub-Committee would have to take the discharge data and hire a consultant to convert the data to velocities.

Mr. Bisson also provided us with the historical tail race elevation at the bottom of the dam in 2011, being an average year. He pointed out that this data was only one point in time during the day. He explained that there is a typical demand to produce electricity during the day so they open up the dam and release water starting between 5 am and 7 am until 8 to 10 pm and they shut the water flow. Therefore the water is moving faster in the river in the day time and slower at night. This means the current picks up during the day.

Finally he provided us with a contact for an MNR Official (Joanna Samson) 613 732-5593.

Margaret Whyte - Beach Water Testing

Margaret reported that she also contacted the local Health Unit and pulled off information on river water testing from their website. There are 22 beach sites in Renfrew County that are tested now.

Ralph Miller - photos of Burnstown Beach and Arnprior's Robert Simpson Park

Pictures that Ralph had taken of the buildings and infrastructure at the Burnstown Beach in McNab-Braeside and the Robert Simpson Park in Arnprior were passed around.

5. WHERE IS EVERYONE WITH THEIR ASSIGNMENTS

Chair McLaren briefly reviewed the information provided to date. Approximately 50% of the data collection is completed. The Members were satisfied with the progress of the collection.

6. TIMING – ESTIMATE REMAINING ISSUES TO GATHER INFORMATION.

The Committee Members discussed developing the beach in phases. Councillor Whyte said Council needs guidelines from this Committee. Sandy Black suggested that we need minimum work carried out to start – outhouses, change room and buoy line. Councillor Whyte said can this project be feasible? Ms. Black said we have to make it feasible – no capital costs to start

Councillor Whyte asked if the Committee was going to make a recommendation based on facts i.e. current and velocity of the river. She added that we have to look at facts to make a recommendation. Sandy Black said there would probably be a safe swim area close to the shoreline for swimmers. The current will be further out.

Kathleen Rogers said she sees the property as a park rather than a beach. There could still be “swim at own risk” signs, set up BBQ pits, outhouse, picnic tables and yard maintenance required.

Edgar Elliott asked if there were specifications available at the Township for the access road i.e. width, sightlines, turnouts etc. The Chair said he wasn't aware of any but he would seek direction from Council on what would be the minimum requirements they would accept.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Chair reported that the next meeting will be 9 a.m. on August 30, being a date selected at our June Committee Meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY