

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Beach Sub-Committee Meeting

October 23, 2013

There was a meeting of the Beach Sub-Committee held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Wednesday October 23, 2013. Present was Chair Mackie McLaren, Robert A. Johnston, Steve Osipenko, Councillor Margaret Whyte, Ralph Miller and Sandy Black. Staff present was Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chair requested the Members to review the September 24th Meeting Minutes.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

- Comments from Debbie Grantham, neighbour of 25 Farrells Landing

Ms. Grantham was present and was invited to provide her comments on the Township's investigation of 25 Farrells Landing as a potential community beach and park. She expressed the following concerns:

- The property is not large
- Beach/park will only receive 2 months usage each year
- Loss of peace and privacy as she lives right next door to the proposed property. Anticipates their dock will be used. Will bring more boats to the area of the river. Abuse of property and rules in the evening, and commented that the local neighbourhood is a good group now.
- Her family has owned their property for over 70 years
- The current Township property has less neighbours and
- Is much more suitable as a beach/park than the Farrells Landing property.

The Chair thanked Ms. Grantham for her comments.

- Appraisals – received by not released

The Chair informed the Members that he has now received the property appraisals for the Farrells Landing property and for the Township's current waterfront property. He told the Members that the Township's Finance Committee had been informed of the values and they had requested that Joel and Sherri Elliott, property owner of 25 Farrells Landing be informed of the appraisal information first before the Committee makes it public. A copy of the appraisal was sent to Mr. Elliott's father who lives locally late

this afternoon who would still have to forward the copy to his son and daughter-in-law in Alberta.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Updated Report on Completed Terms of Reference

The Chair presented an updated copy of the Council's Terms of Reference which noted the up to date information that has been completed by the Members.

6. MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES

- Is anyone having difficulties gathering information for their responsibility?

The Chair asked for any member that is having difficulties completing an assigned task to share the problem with Committee Members so we can all assist to resolve the issue.

Councillor Whyte referenced the fencing of the property. She asked how long the fence is. Robert A. Johnston, who has knowledge of the fencing materials said that the property would have to be measured but believes that enough fence was purchased several years ago to fence the entire perimeter of the Township's waterfront property. Kathleen Rogers suggested we would need more than this farm fence at the Farrells Landing property, it would be chain link or wood. Mr. Johnston said chain link or wood would be more expensive than farm fence.

Sandy Black said she needs assistance with finding data on population density. The Chair said he would see what is available from MPAC and the 2010 election poll information.

- Members present information gathered since last Meeting:

Ralph Miller submitted his report on signage, volunteer labour opportunities, negative aspects of pursuing beach properties and recommendations.

Kathleen Rogers said she has contacted the Health Unit for their water testing results and it will be coming shortly. The water testing was only carried out on the Timbertown property as the testing program was over before we had made the arrangements on the Farrells Landing property.

The Chair requested the members review the section of the Terms of Reference left for all Members to finalize. These are:

- *Will there be a user fee to use the beach?*
 - ❖ *Different user fee for residents vs. non-residents?*
- *Is there public support for a township beach?*
 - ❖ *Would sub-committee hold a public meeting*
 - ❖ *What is confidence level for usage*
 - ❖ *Will the sub-committee survey the community*
- *If decision is not to proceed with beach development, what does the Township do with the land?*
 - ❖ *Retain it for future use*
 - ❖ *Sell the land*
 - *What would sale proceeds be used for*
- *Develop beach or sell beach and use funds towards cost to the project to enlarge the Community Centre.*

The Chair specifically asked the Members to consider the second bullet point – public support. He asked them if they would recommend a survey and/or a public meeting. After discussion the Members agreed that the Committee should concentrate on a survey that would be mailed to each property owner, hopefully included in another mail out. The next mail out will be late December with the landfill cards and recycling calendar. The Members considered that a Public Meeting would be better later when we had more details and information from the surveys to provide to the public.

The Members discussed various options on wording for the survey and it was agreed that they would individually submit sample questions to the Chair who will compile them into a draft survey for review at the next Committee Meeting. The wording is to be submitted by November 8.

7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The Members agreed that the date for the next Beach Sub-Committee meeting would be Wednesday November 27 at 9:00 a.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, Seconded by Sandy Black that this Meeting be adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Carried

CHAIR

SECRETARY