

# Town of Deep River

## Meeting Minutes

03/12/2015 – Housing Advisory Committee Meeting – Deep River Town Hall - 2:00 p.m.

### Present:

Councillor Robert McLaren  
Councillor Ronald Desrochers  
Staff Ric McGee, CAO/Clerk (1<sup>st</sup> half hour)  
Member Lesley Barry  
Member Michael Stephens

### Regrets:

Mayor Joan Lougheed  
Member Elizabeth Ells  
Member Monica Mulvihill  
Member Uditha Senaratne

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Councillor McLaren.

### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 01

**Moved By:** Robert McLaren

**Seconded By:** Ronald Desrochers

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of March 12, 2015 be adopted as tabled. [See Attachment]

**CARRIED.**

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were requested or disclosed.

### 4. ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR & RECORDING SECRETARY

As many Committee members were absent at this first meeting, no elections were held. Lesley Barry volunteered to act as Vice-Chairman, and Michael Stephens volunteered to act as Recording Secretary until elections could be held.

### 5. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Committee had a preliminary discussion of the desired outcomes of the Committee's work and potential ways of achieving it. The following considerations were raised:

- One outcome should be that the town has in place, and is implementing, a Plan for developing Seniors Housing.
- Goals of the Committee's efforts could include:
  - Establishing housing needs (e.g., for people with special needs) and wants in the municipality by carrying out a survey of residents in the next two or three

months. Possible survey distribution methods include: email, online, door-to-door handout, by mail, or included with tax notices.

- Examining feasible options to satisfy the identified needs and wants
- Learning from the experience with facilities in other municipalities (e.g., Eganville, Corbeil, Pinawa)
- The housing survey that was conducted a couple of years ago may provide some insight, but is known to have limitations.
- Several funding models for seniors housing have been successful:
  - Not-for-profit corporation (municipal or stand-alone)(e.g., Fairfield's in Eganville <http://www.fairfields.ca/>, Orillia's Leacock Retirement Lodge (<http://www.jarlette.com/retirement-lodges/leacock-retirement-lodge>), Pinawa's Ironwood Supportive Housing ([http://www.ltcam.mb.ca/member\\_ironwood.html](http://www.ltcam.mb.ca/member_ironwood.html))
  - Private organization (e.g., Chartwell, Claridge Homes)
  - Church-based (e.g., Martindale Place in St. Catharines (<http://martindaleplace.com/>))
  - Organization that constructs then operates a facility for a few years, then transfers the facility to an operating organization
- The housing issue is larger than just adding seniors housing. For example, if new smaller houses are constructed for seniors, young families may be interested in purchasing the larger houses vacated. Many people may prefer to rent rather than purchase their housing for a variety of reasons (e.g., age of existing houses, peripatetic employment, no desire or ability to invest a large lump sum in housing).
- Municipalities are legally forbidden to offer "bonus" incentives to attract private investment. However municipalities can make investments in projects on their own property.
- It would likely be helpful if more serviced lots were available for individuals to construct their own single house, rather than relying only on large projects creating groups of residences.
- It might help to consult local builders about advancing their development plans.
- It would help to develop promotional materials and maintain good contacts with Chalk River Laboratories and Garrison Petawawa to encourage interest in the Town. Each of the jobs at these institutions can generate an additional ½ job in the local economy.
- Apparently a DVD promoting Deep River was produced a few years ago, but the whereabouts of copies is unknown.
- Improving the town's curbside appeal was discussed, focusing on the main entrance to town at Deep River Road. Michael Stephens shared research that Phil Simpson and he had done into this.

- Posting reasonably detailed minutes of Committee meetings on the town website will help town residents have a clear sense of the progress of the Committee. Other methods of communication such as a column in NRT are also possible.

Lesley Barry circulated to those present copies of CMHC Project Profiles of affordable housing projects for seniors in the following Ontario communities: London, East Ferris (Corbeil), Lakefield, Rideau Lakes and Sharbot Lake.

## **ACTIONS**

- a. **Ronald Desrochers** to contact the absent Committee members by email to invite expressions of interest in the Chair, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary positions.
- b. **Robert McLaren** to circulate electronically to all Committee members the results from the housing survey of two years ago, and the current approved version of the Town's Strategic Plan.
- c. **Robert McLaren** to obtain for the next meeting a map of the municipality showing what land is owned by the Town.
- d. **Ronald Desrochers** to discuss with Ric McGee appropriate means for the Committee to communicate with the public about the Committee's activities.
- e. **Lesley Barry** to research potential questions to include in a housing survey.
- f. **Michael Stephens** to review current MLS listings of housing for sale in the municipality to obtain a snapshot of the currently available housing options.

It was suggested that the Committee should try to hold its second meeting at the Town Hall in about two week's time, on Thursday, March 26 at 3:30 PM.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 02

**Moved By:** Ronald Desrochers

**Seconded By:** Lesley Barry

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Housing Advisory Committee hereby adjourns the meeting at 4:35 PM.

**CARRIED.**

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**Councillor Robert McLaren, Chair**

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**Member Michael Stephens, Recording Secretary (pro tem)**

**Attachment**

**Housing Advisory Committee Agenda**

**Thursday March 12, 2015 at 2:00PM**

**Deep River Town Hall**

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
4. Election of Chair, Vice-chair & Recording Secretary
5. General discussion
6. Adjournment