

Town of Deep River

Meeting Minutes

04/09/2015 – Housing Advisory Committee Meeting – Deep River Town Hall - 3:30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Ronald Desrochers
Councillor Robert McLaren
Member Monica Mulvihill
Member Lesley Barry
Member Elizabeth Ells
Member Michael Stephens
Guest Kevin Hickey (first ½ hour)
Guest Brad Chubbs (first ½ hour)

Regrets:

Mayor Joan Lougheed
Member Uditha Senaratne

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Monica Mulvihill called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 06

Moved By: Lesley Barry

Seconded By: Ronald Desrochers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of April 9, 2015 be adopted as tabled. [See Attachment]

CARRIED.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Participants were asked to disclose any pecuniary interest they had that might be incompatible with their participation in the work of the Committee. No such potentially conflicting pecuniary interests were raised.

4. KEVIN HICKEY – STATUS OF THE HOUSING MARKET

Realtor Kevin Hickey and colleague Brad Chubbs described the current state of the housing market in Deep River and Area. Houses are selling if priced at a realistic market value. Typical sale prices were in the \$212k to \$221k range and about 96% of asking price. Average time on the market is 119 days. The biggest factor affecting the current market is the general

uncertainty associated with the upcoming transition of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to contractor management. Seniors who do leave are often moving to be closer to their children. Many seniors prefer to rent rather than own their residence, and having more rental housing would be useful. If more new houses were available in Deep River, it would draw interest in people considering a move to the area. More publicity of the attractions of the town would be helpful. Local tax rates are not high given the level of services provided.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2015 MEETING

Draft minutes from the March 26 meeting had been circulated to Committee members before the meeting. A revised version incorporating a comment received from Lesley Barry was tabled at this meeting.

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 07

Moved By: Elizabeth Ells

Seconded By: Ron Desrochers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft minutes of the Housing Advisory Committee Meeting of March 26, 2015 be approved as tabled and posted on the town website.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

STATUS OF ACTIONS

- a. **Robert McLaren** to obtain for the next meeting a map of the municipality showing what land is owned by the Town. **ONGOING.**
- b. **Ronald Desrochers** to discuss with Ric McGee appropriate means for the Committee to communicate with the public about the Committee's activities. **COMPLETE.** It was agreed that posting minutes of Committee meetings on the town website should suffice until the work of the Committee was further advanced.
- a. **Uditha Senaratne** to search for his copy of the town promotional DVD. **COMPLETE.** Uditha had located a copy of the DVD and provided it to Michael Stephens. Michael reviewed the 14-minute video produced in 2008, and found about 5% of the content warranted updating. Otherwise, he considered that the video was excellent and still very suitable for publicizing the town. The Deep River and District Community Association would have to be consulted if the DVD was to be used in future.
- b. **Robert McLaren** to invite Realtor Kevin Hickey to speak to the next meeting of the Committee on the current housing situation. **COMPLETE.**
- c. **Lesley Barry** to revise the housing survey questions and circulate to the Committee before the next meeting. **COMPLETE.**

- d. **Elizabeth Ells** to speak to Andy McKee on reasons people have given for moving out of town in the last five years. **COMPLETE.** Elizabeth had spoken to Mr. McKee, who had provided useful information.
- e. **Monica Mulvihill** to draft an email to be circulated through the Seniors Friendship Club, and an article for the North Renfrew Times inviting feedback on the reasons given by people who have left town in the last five years. We are awaiting the creation of a dedicated email address for the HAC, i.e., housingadvisorycommittee@deepriver.ca. **ONGOING.**

7. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to reviewing Lesley Barry's second draft of the questions for the general housing survey and the additional questions directed to seniors. It was decided to fuse the senior-specific questions into the main set of questions for all respondents. Additional information would also be provided to respondents, including definitions of housing terminology, funding models, etc. It was agreed that it would be advisable to have at least a few non-Committee persons complete the survey before it is finalized for distribution to residents. We will also ask some key individuals in the community to offer input.

8. OVERVIEW OF SURVEY LOGISTICS

It was decided initially to use a hardcopy-only survey directed at seniors (i.e., the ~1000 residents who are at least 55 years of age), and focused on their needs. Several possible means for distributing the survey were discussed, but no decision was reached. Lesley Barry had initiated inquiries with the North Renfrew Times about running a series of articles in the newspaper to publicize the survey and inform people about various types of seniors' housing initiatives that have been successful in other municipalities.

A second, later survey would be directed to all households.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A brief discussion was held to clarify practical details of managing the Committee's meetings.

10. REVIEW OF MEETING'S DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

In addition to the one ongoing action listed under agenda item 6, commitments were made to complete the following new actions:

- a. **All Committee members** to review the CMHC Project Profiles and other information on seniors housing projects that had been tabled by Lesley Barry.
- b. **Monica Mulvihill** to get confirmation from town hall staff of the email address the Committee can use to solicit feedback on the reasons given by people who have left town in the last five years.

- c. **Elizabeth Ells** to write up her notes from her conversation with Andy McKee on reasons people have given for moving out of town in the last five years.
- d. **Lesley Barry** to revise the housing survey questions and circulate a third draft focused on seniors' needs to the Committee before the next meeting.
- e. **Monica Mulvihill** to invite Kim Rodgers, Administrator of North Renfrew Long-Term Care, to speak at the next meeting of the Committee.
- f. **Michael Stephens** to send to Lesley Barry available information on the Pinawa Ironwood Supportive Housing.
- g. **Monica Mulvihill** to discuss with Mayor Lougheed contacting the mayors of Laurentian Hills and Head, Clara & Maria about joint efforts to approach housing issues of common concern.
- h. **Robert McLaren** to find out the timing of the next municipal quarterly newsletter for possible use in publicizing the housing survey.
- i. **Robert McLaren** to locate the town's ballot boxes for possible use in collecting completed housing surveys.
- j. **Lesley Barry** to investigate survey software options.
- k. **Monica Mulvihill** to contact Mackenzie Community School about asking students to help with data entry of survey returns in return for credit for hours of community service.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place at the Town Hall on Wednesday, April 22 at 3:30 PM. The focus will be on finalizing the seniors' housing survey and continuing the discussion of survey logistics, including distribution, collection and data entry, as well as discussing seniors' housing issues with Kim Rodgers if she is available to attend.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 08

Moved By: Elizabeth Ells

Seconded By: Michael Stephens

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Housing Advisory Committee hereby adjourns the meeting at 5:45 PM. **CARRIED.**

Monica Mulvihill, Chair

Michael Stephens, Recording Secretary

Attachment

Housing Advisory Committee, Town of Deep River

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 9, 2015, 3:30 pm at Deep River Town Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest
4. Kevin Hickey – status of the housing market
5. Approval of the minutes of March 26, 2015 meeting
6. Business arising
7. Review of the draft Housing Needs Assessment Survey
8. Overview of survey logistics
9. Other Business
10. Review of meeting's decisions and actions
11. Next meeting
12. Adjournment