

Town of Deep River

Meeting Minutes

05/07/2015 – Housing Advisory Committee Meeting – Deep River Town Hall - 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor	Ronald Desrochers
Councillor	Robert McLaren
Chair	Monica Mulvihill
Vice-Chair	Lesley Barry
Recording Secretary	Michael Stephens
Guest	Kim Rodgers, Administrator, North Renfrew Long-Term Care Services

Regrets:

Mayor	Joan Lougheed
Member	Elizabeth Ells

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Monica Mulvihill called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 12

Moved By: Ronald Desrochers

Seconded By: Robert McLaren

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of May 7, 2015 be adopted as tabled.

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. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 2015 MEETING

Draft minutes from the April 22 meeting had been circulated to Committee members before the meeting. Michael Stephens tabled a revised version that incorporated the comments received from Monica Mulvihill and Kim Rodgers.

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 13

Moved By: Michael Stephens

Seconded By: Ronald Desrochers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft minutes of the Housing Advisory Committee Meeting of April 22, 2015 be approved as tabled and posted on the town website.

CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Monica Mulvihill reported that Uditha Senaratne had contacted her to say that he would need to step down from the Committee because of irreconcilable scheduling conflicts with his work schedule. She had expressed to him the Committee's regrets at losing him.

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. **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. **COMPLETE.** Neighbouring municipalities have agreed to distribute the upcoming seniors housing survey and collect completed surveys.
- c. **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. **ONGOING.** Several attempts have been made to contact the school administration, but will require further follow-up.
- d. **Lesley Barry** to complete a fourth draft of the seniors' survey and start pilot testing with selected residents and send the survey to four expert reviewers. **COMPLETE.**
- e. **Michael Stephens** to review the invitation to municipalities to make submissions to the consultation on the updating of Ontario's long-term affordable housing strategy. **COMPLETE.**

6. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

A total of 17 surveys were sent to selected residents for pilot testing, and some of the initial feedback that had been received was discussed. The Committee also discussed the feedback from four expert reviewers.

7. OVERVIEW OF SURVEY LOGISTICS

The Committee reviewed Lesley Barry's updated logistics sheet for the survey. Several Committee members agreed to meet on Monday to try out the survey software using the pilot test results. A date of May 27 was chosen for the survey launch.

8. NRT ARTICLES – UPDATE

Lesley Barry reported that the Committee's second article, on affordable housing in Corbeil and Astorville, had appeared in the April 29 issue of the North Renfrew Times. The third article, on the Bethel Green apartments in Toronto funded with life leases, appeared in the May 6 issue. The fourth article, on non-profit Abbeyfield supportive housing, had been submitted for the May 13 issue. A further article might deal with the for-profit Riverside Heights Retirement Residence in Pembroke.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Stephens had reviewed the Ontario announcement of consultations to update Ontario's long-term affordable housing strategy. Municipal councils across the province were encouraged to make submissions on their concerns and issues. Lesley Barry noted that Renfrew County had learned in February that it will receive \$5.6 million over the next six years under the Ontario Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program. Monica Mulvihill said she would be speaking with the Program Director for Housing of Renfrew County soon, and would update her on this Committee's activities. Kim Rodgers noted that Deep River has some affordable housing issues related to accessibility of our social housing and income support for some long-term care residents.

10. REVIEW OF MEETING'S DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

In addition to the two ongoing actions listed under agenda item 5, commitments were made to complete the following new actions:

- a. **Several Committee members** to contact identified local organizations to ask if they would be willing to host distribution and collection points for the seniors housing survey.
- b. **Robert McLaren** to find suitable boxes to collect completed surveys at the collection points.
- c. **Michael Stephens** to draft a letter to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing describing the activities of this Committee and the active involvement of North Renfrew Long-Term Care, our interest in being kept abreast of developments elsewhere, and willingness to undertake a suitable housing pilot project.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place at the Town Hall on Monday, May 11 at 9:30 PM. The focus will be on testing survey software using the completed pilot surveys.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: 2015 HAC 14

Moved By: Lesley Barry

Seconded By: Michael Stephens

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Housing Advisory Committee hereby adjourns the meeting at 3:00 PM.

CARRIED.

Monica Mulvihill, Chair

Michael Stephens, Recording Secretary