

Town of Deep River
Minutes of Meeting of the Housing Advisory Committee
NRLTC Drop-In Centre, February 16, 2016

Present: Chair - Monica Mulvihill

Recording Secretary - Michael Stephens

Member - Elizabeth Ells

Mayor - Joan Lougheed

Councillor - Robert McLaren

Guest - Barbara Shaw

Guest - Marg Killey

Regrets: Guest - Kim Rodgers, Administrator, NRLT Care Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Monica Mulvihill called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Joan Lougheed noted that Councillor Ronald Desrochers would no longer sit on the Committee following a recent re-alignment of Councillors' Committee assignments.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Marg Killey, seconded by Barbara Shaw: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda of February 16, 2016 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 FEBRUARY 1, 2016 MEETING

Draft minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting had been circulated to Committee members before the meeting. No comments had been received.

Moved by Elizabeth Ells, seconded By Barbara Shaw: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft minutes of the Housing Advisory Committee Meeting of February 1, 2016 be approved as tabled and posted on the town website. CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

There were several open Actions from previous meetings:

ACTION – Monica Mulvihill to contact Renfrew County administration to find out what rent data may already be available [e.g., on geared-to-income units]. COMPLETE. Rental rates were highly variable across Renfrew County, as housing markets depended on local circumstances. Average rent in the County was \$759 (\$624 for a bachelor apartment, \$622 for a 1-bedroom apartment, \$810 for a 2-bedroom apartment, and \$983 for a 3-bedroom apartment). Deep River rents are higher than average due to the tight local rental market.

ACTION - Monica Mulvihill to finalize the landlord market rent survey form and cover letter, put them on the town website, and send hardcopies with a stamped return envelope to local landlords. COMPLETE. The survey is being conducted by hardcopy only.

ACTION – Joan Lougheed and Ronald Desrochers to look into potential housing investors to invite to the Deep River Housing Forum (e.g., landlords, investor clubs, CNL). ONGOING.

ACTION 16-01-02 – Joan Lougheed to draft a letter of invitation to investors to the Deep River Housing Forum. ONGOING.

ACTION – Monica Mulvihill to contact potential speakers about their availability to participate in the Deep River Housing Forum. ONGOING. Monica had identified several persons willing to speak at the Forum, and will continue contacts to finalize the list of speakers.

6. HOUSING FORUM

The Housing Forum is scheduled for Monday, May 16 at the Deep River Legion. The Committee continued its discussion on the optimal suite of speakers and preferred topics for parallel workshops (e.g., funding sources and how to apply, housing and financing models, Official Plan, business ventures, aging in place).

Several Actions related to the Forum had been set previously:

ACTION 16-02-01 – Michael Stephens to confirm the availability of the Federal Retirees’ laptop, projector and sound system for the Housing Forum. COMPLETE. The equipment will be available.

ACTION 16-02-02: Monica Mulvihill to put notices about the Housing Forum in the North Renfrew Times and on the town website. ONGOING.

ACTION 16-02-03: All Committee members to suggest articles to put in the North Renfrew Times to maintain public awareness, knowledge and interest about housing issues. COMPLETE.

ACTION 16-02-04: All Committee members to forward to Monica Mulvihill their suggestions for possible workshop topics at the Housing Forum. COMPLETE.

ACTION 16-02-05: Joan Lougheed to contact Charles Packer to find out if he would be interested in moderating the Housing Forum. COMPLETE. Mr. Packer is willing to come to the forum.

ACTION 16-02-06: Monica Mulvihill to find out the Legion seating capacity for the Housing Forum. ONGOING.

ACTION 16-02-07: Monica Mulvihill to locate the Globe & Mail housing article. COMPLETE.

To keep the public informed and interested in the Forum, additional articles will be submitted to the North Renfrew Times. The public will also be invited to reserve the date of the forum and ask for a place (spaces being limited) on a first-come-first served basis. Several new actions were set:

ACTION 16-02-08: Elizabeth Ells to prepare an article for the North Renfrew Times on the Pinawa model.

ACTION 16-02-09: Michael Stephens to prepare an article for the North Renfrew Times on a topic to be determined.

ACTION 16-02-10: Barbara Shaw to prepare an article for the North Renfrew Times on co-housing.

ACTION 16-02-11: Marg Killey to prepare an article for the North Renfrew Times on Universal Design/Accessibility/Design for Aging in Place.

ACTION 16-02-12: Elizabeth Ells to take the draft poster and the attachment to the invitation to the forum to Digital Copy Xpress to have the layout finalized.

ACTION 16-02-13: Monica Mulvihill to revise the draft forum agenda and circulate it to the Committee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Monica Mulvihill said that her presentation on the work of the Committee to the local branch of the Rotary Club on February 3 went very well. She will circulate her set of slides to the Committee.

8. REVIEW OF MEETING'S DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

The actions assigned at the meeting were reviewed and the details confirmed.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the Town Hall on 2016 March 8 at 10 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

_____ Monica Mulvihill, Chair

_____ Michael Stephens, Recording Secretary