

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

Attendance: Mayor Claude Doughty
Councillor Bill Beatty
Councillor Fran Coleman
Councillor Mary Jane Fletcher
Councillor Mike Greaves
Councillor George Young
Councillor Chris Zanetti

Absent: Councillor John Davis
Councillor Brian Thompson

Staff: John Finley, EDO/Grants Officer
Peter Brown, Director of Public Works
Brian Crozier, Director of Community Services
Stephen Hernen, Fire Chief (Interim CAO Team)
Teri Souter, General Manager, Muskoka Heritage Place
Cecile (Sue) King, Admin. Asst. Fire/Clerk's Dept.

Guest: Stuart Morley, Morley Morley Bell-Towns

1. CONVENE

Moved by George Young and seconded by Mike Greaves

CMP11-08

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT: we do now convene as the Community Master Plan Committee at 2:04 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA – February 28, 2008

Moved by George Young and seconded by Mike Greaves

CMP12-08

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT: the Community Master Plan Agenda dated February 28, 2008 be hereby adopted as printed and circulated.

Carried.

3. PECUNIARY INTEREST

-Nil-

4. MINUTES-February 13, 2008

Moved by George Young and seconded by Mike Greaves

CMP13-08

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT: the Community Master Plan Minutes dated February 13, 2008 be adopted as printed and circulated.

Carried.

5. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Doughty outlined the content and purpose of the meeting.

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

a) Lorne Jolliffe, Huntsville Snowmobile Tourism

Mr. Jolliffe provided background information on the Hotel/Motel Association presentation proposal for bringing Snowmobile Tourism into the Town of Huntsville.

Other communities within the District of Muskoka are already benefiting from the traffic that is generated by having snowmobile trail access into them.

Mr. Jolliffe's presentation will be available on the Community Master Plan blog.

Mr. Jolliffe described the thirteen member Hotel/Motel Association that has been created. The Association and other businesses in the area are interested in the expansion of snowmobile tourism.

It was noted that the proposal to bring snowmobile traffic into the Town has been considered in the past.

Mr. Jolliffe indicated that he has spoken to a number of different clubs and all of them are interested in see the trails expand into the Town.

Councillor Zanetti is associated with the Hill and Gully Snowmobile Club and they have been looking to work with the Town to bring trails closer to the Town.

The status of snowmobiling due to the changing weather and trail conditions was questioned. The sport is still strong even though in some areas the trail permit sales have decreased.

It was noted that the walking trails across the river had been considered as snowmobile access points.

b) Fire Chief Stephen Hernen – Future Infrastructure and Equipment Needs

In 2005 the Huntsville Fire Department completed a Fire Department Master Plan to create a plan for future needs.

The estimate of costs for repairing the Port Sydney Fire Hall, which is thirty years old, may indicate that it would be more cost effective to build a new Hall and training facility at that site.

With the future growth that is predicted for the Town there may be a need for a second Fire Hall in Huntsville. The Huntsville Fire Hall was built for a twenty year life span but it is already eight years old now and renovations and repairs will have to be done to it soon.

The big issue, as in all of North America, is volunteer recruitment and retention; this may have to be addressed by hiring full time staff in the future.

The goal of the Fire Department is to maintain themselves as volunteer, but the needs of the community will have to be addressed.

A number of the recent expenditures have taken place for the Fire Department fleet. The vehicles have a predicted life span of twenty years and are designed for both current and future needs.

Insurance companies rate the fire suppression capabilities of a community. Even though fire is only one component of insurance if the fleet is not current, tax rates might remain lower but insurance rates will increase and in some cases buildings would not be insurable.

Although additional monies will be needed to keep the Fire Service up-to-date any increase in growth may offset the costs.

Discussion followed on the changes that have taken place to Fire Service responses. Medical calls and fire prevention duties are now part of the services provided.

c) Brian Crozier, Director of Community Services

Brian Crozier indicated that the five active Community Halls are all in need of repairs and improvements.

The critical improvements have been done such as Fire Code requirements but some of the buildings need further re-investment.

A number of the Parks buildings need repairs and renovations as well. Some of the buildings are older and need upgrading.

Recreational equipment also requires repair and renovation.

Town docks, some dating back to the early 1900's, will need refurbishment. A number of the docks were downloaded from the Provincial and Federal governments.

Muskoka Heritage Place and its operations are also part of the Community Services operations.

The steam train and historic buildings are not replaceable items and must be preserved.

Volunteers have been very valuable in keeping the buildings upgraded but they cannot cover large capital costs.

The Huntsville Train Station has been rejuvenated but will need ongoing funding.

The Centennial Centre roof needs to be replaced and the roof top structures are original and often malfunction.

Many of the internal infrastructures are also original equipment, that require ongoing repairs and it is becoming difficult to find replacement parts.

The Dry Fire System and the pool deck have to be repaired or replaced.

Repair and refurbishment would extend the life span of the building.

It was suggested that as Muskoka Heritage Place and the Library could share some services if the Library were moved to a new location. The library has already reorganized to find space to extend the life span of their building.

The Locks were retrofitted last year but still require ongoing maintenance and the swing bridge will also need attention.

d) Peter Brown, Director of Public Works – Infrastructure Needs

Mr. Brown has compiled the future needs of the Public Works Department.

With the continued increase in growth road maintenance is a priority. The Roads Needs Study identified a number of areas where roads and bridges will need to be replaced or repaired. Some of the large culverts also need to be replaced.

Public Works Operator numbers have decreased from twenty-two to sixteen.

Madill Yard has been modified but there is a need for a larger bay, a sand dome for storage and drive sheds to store rolling stock to lengthen its life span.

There is a vehicle replacement plan for the vehicles, but it does not allow for an increase in stock due to the increase in the number of roads to be maintained.

Two new snowplows and a sidewalk plow have been identified as necessary to meet the increased demands.

A Gradall could be purchased for ditching, clearing ice blockages and also for brushing and clearing roadsides.

Due to the increase in the number of abandoned Cemeteries that has taken place, additional staff and equipment will be needed for Cemetery Maintenance.

Transit may want to purchase an accessible unit in future.

Funding for infrastructure may be available from the upper levels of government, which would assist with meeting the needs of the community.

For non-essential wants or needs the community may have to do fundraising and look at grants and funding for specific projects.

7. REPORT FROM STUART MORLEY MORLEY MORLEY BELL-TOWNS – see attached Schedule “A”

Mr. Morley expanded his comments on the hand out that was circulated to the Committee and the public that were in attendance.

Suggestions have been received from many sectors of the community.

The blog and the video tapes have assisted with the compilation of the data.

8. COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Mayor Doughty spoke to the Committee with reference to the prioritization and categorizing of the categories that have been identified.

Some of the initiatives for “greening” Huntsville have already been started and more are already being considered.

The process of the Master Plan is coming to the point where the wants are being identified and can be put into one document.

It was suggested that alternate financing means, such as OSIFA could be accessed.

The budget and the Master Plan should both be ready at the end of March so that an overview of both documents will be available.

The "Green Plan" should be prepared in conjunction with the other Plans that are being created.

Funding is available to do the "Green Plan" if the municipality takes the action to proceed.

Culture and Heritage should be included as categories of the Master Plan.

9. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Boysen, King Street

Mr. Boysen inquired whether or not a “green roof” had been considered for the Centennial Centre.

Regarding bringing snowmobiles into the Town, two stroke engines are considered pollutants, and a ban has been discussed by upper levels of government.

Brian Crozier indicated that a "green roof" has been considered for the Centennial Centre. Other environment friendly heating and refurbishment has also been considered.

Lorne Jolliffe answered further on the snowmobile engines. Four stroke engines are now being used for snowmobiles that are less polluting.

Mr. Jolliffe told the Committee that solar panels are being researched by the hotels/motels in the area.

A question was asked regarding the feasibility of putting a second ice pad on the upper level of the Centennial Centre. This is not feasible due to the structure of the existing building.

10. NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

The next steps in the Master Plan process will be to categorize and compile all of the data that has been provided by the various groups and individuals.

11. CLOSING COMMENTS AND THANK YOU BY MAYOR

Mayor Doughty thanked everyone for their participation and input into the Master Plan process.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by George Young and seconded by Mike Greaves

CMP14-08

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT: the Community Master Plan Committee adjourn to meet again on March 31, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair, Council Chambers.

Carried.

Chair

The Corporation of the Town of Huntsville

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

Meeting Held on February 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

in the Council Chambers, Huntsville, ON

No recommendations contained within the minutes.