

THE CORPORATION of the UNITED TOWNSHIPS of HEAD, CLARA & MARIA
Minutes - PUBLIC MEETING

Saturday, March 28, 2015 – 10:00 h. (10:00 a.m.)

HCM Mission: At your service; working effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community.

HCM Vision: Providing a healthy, connected, and sustainable community teeming with possibilities for our citizens now and into the future.

A public meeting to review the municipal strategic plan document and make suggestions for the upcoming term.

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Council – Calvin Chartrand, Dave Foote, Debbi Grills, Jim Gibson

Residents - Earl Francoeur, Bob Grills, John Reith, Marlene Gibson, Bob Seguin, Diane Murphy, Fred Vickery

Staff – Melinda Reith, Clerk; Noella LeBreton, Treasurer;

7 members Laurentian Hills – Renfrew County Landowners

Introduction by Mayor Gibson – explanation of protocol & rules of debate; mission and vision statements. Explanation of lines of communication. Purpose of the public meeting.

Opened the floor to the public by asking where they wanted Council to move over the next few years.

Bob Seguin – expressed concern for the status of the boat launch Stonecliffe, requested that Council consider clearing rocks and adding solar lights. The group discussed the pros and cons, along with the recent identification of the Recreation Committee for the need for washrooms.

Mr. Seguin then questioned the height of Boudreau road in comparison to the roads leading from it; Mayor Gibson explained that this has been addressed previously and noted that we need to remind Terry to keep the height level.

The discussion changed to properties and property values with an explanation of MPAC comparatives.

Diane Murphy – expressed her compliments to Council and staff; have not had a complaint or problem within the township in all her years here. Feels that HCM is the best kept secret in Canada; maybe we should keep it a secret. I don't know about the needs of other people; but our needs are being met.

Staff and Council present expressed their thanks to Diane.

Mayor Gibson – thank staff and volunteers for their efforts; only through volunteer efforts have we been able to venture into things we’ve never done before; library board – card parties, Recreation Committee.

Mr. Seguin asked about how the office closing Thursdays was working.

Staff explained that it was working but still not enough. That workload is such that it seems to be a losing battle with continued changes to the provincial demands. Staff provided an explanation of the recent request from the province to change one report for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund’s \$25,000 to 9. Further explanation of Provincial ministries’ demands and results in exchange for funding.

Bob Seguin asked if there were any grants for private roads?

There was some general discussion.

The Clerk reviewed the 2013 Strategic Plan document briefly outlining the process, items on the previous priorities list and the status of priorities. Those items which were decided might not best be reflected on a Council Strategic Plan and those which have already been completed or are in progress were eliminated by consensus. There was discussion about the various priorities and general feelings about how they should be dealt with.

The Clerk then recorded a vote on the remaining items as lead by Mayor Gibson. A total of 11 people voted with the Clerk remaining neutral as recorder and secretary.

Earl Francoeur left prior to the vote.

Results: (The second number refers to the order on the original list.)

1. 1 - Review of Recycling Program – 11
2. 3 - Investigate Municipal Composting – 7
3. 7 - Review of Future Staffing Needs and Opportunities – 10
4. 8 - Review of Boat Launch Infrastructure – 8
5. 9 - Review improved archival storage – 10
6. 13 – Expanding Wellness Clinics from County - 4
7. 14 – Lobby for changes to the Municipal Act - 7
8. 15 – Erosion at Old Mackey Park - 3
9. 16 – Economic Development Strategy - 4
10. 22 – Develop List of Drivers/persons in need of transportation - 10
11. Lobby for High Speed Internet – 11
12. Improvements at Stonecliffe Boat Launch – 10
13. Old Mackey Park Infrastructure – electricity, water - 0

Review of the Municipal Report Card – deferred to a subsequent meeting

The Clerk quickly explained next steps which will include public consultation through a mailed survey followed by staff/Council consultation.

Thank you and adjournment – Mayor Gibson approximately 12:30 h.