



# Committee Minutes

## Hanover-Owen Sound Task Force

October 30, 2020 – 9:30 am

The Hanover-Owen Sound Task Force met on the above date through electronic participation with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Selwyn Hicks, Councillors O’Leary, Desai, Milne; and Warden McQueen

### Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, CAO, Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning, Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing, Barb Fedy, Director of Social Services; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Stephanie Lacey-Avon, Intermediate Planner; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator; Brian Tocheri, Hanover CAO, Tim Simmonds, Owen Sound CAO

Guests: Jill Umbach, Planning Network Coordinator-Poverty Task Force and Sarah Cowley, Coordinator-Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

## Call to Order

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order at 9:30.

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was none.

## Business Arising

Randy Scherzer reviewed the Recommendations and Opportunities document which highlights points, questions, opportunities and further information requested from previous Task Force meetings. He highlighted the themes that are being discussed through the Task Force meetings, housing related items including rent supplement programs, vacant land opportunities, housing grant opportunities, Community Improvement Plans and the development of an economic hub.

Mr. Scherzer then provided a follow-up presentation related to previous discussions and questions arising from those discussions. He spoke to the population density of Hanover in comparison to other municipalities, employment income, household income under \$30,000 and Ontario Works caseload, all by municipality and apartment building counts, number of owners, age and size of these buildings in Hanover and Owen Sound. It was noted that many apartment buildings in these municipalities are between 60-110 years old. This data will be utilized when completing the final report.

Discussion commenced on what standard housing is and how it is enforced within municipalities. Ms. Umbach noted that the response to sub-standard housing is currently being done on a reactive rather than a proactive method. She also spoke to the challenges finding housing for the indigenous population.

## Delegations

### **Poverty in Grey County**

Jill Umbach, Planning Network Coordinator of the Poverty Task Force provided an overview of the Task Force including the goals of the Task Force. She provided a brief history of the Task Force, outlined the areas that the Task Force focused work on including bridges out of poverty, food security, health equity, income and employment security and housing. Ms. Umbach did note that the business community is one partnership that has been missing from the discussion table. Initial discussions are now occurring.

She highlighted the need for sustainable cities and communities as well as investing in safe homes and neighbourhoods. She noted that housing provides the foundation of living a quality life and if residents are unable to live where they work, community transportation becomes very important. Ms. Umbach also highlighted other issues including emergency housing becoming more prevalent in the urban areas, amount of payday loan businesses in the urban centres, and the lack of drug and dental coverage.

Ms. Umbach spoke to the recent report “We are all Neighbours-Rentsafe Final Report” which was released in October 2019. The report focuses on RentSafe Research on Equity-focused Intersectoral Practice for Housing and Health Equity in Owen Sound. She noted that this research is finding proactive solutions and was conducted in partnership with Queen’s University.

Ms. Umbach also spoke to the Giiwe Project-an inter-agency collaboration led by M’Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre to reduce off-reserve indigenous homelessness.

Questions and comments from Task Force members then followed.

## **Community Safety and Well-Being Plan**

Sarah Cowley, Coordinator for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for Grey and Bruce Counties spoke to the current status of the plan. She highlighted the partners involved in the project, provided details of the process for the Plan's development and the priority areas of risk noting that the overarching goal of crime prevention. She noted that the Plan will be presented to both Grey and Bruce Councils shortly.

She outlined the key components of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Indicator Report including: social development-promoting and maintain community safety and well-being; prevention-proactively reducing identified risks and implementing evidence-based situational measures; risk intervention-mitigating situations of elevated risk and incident response-critical and non-critical incident response.

Ms. Cowley highlighted the development of the plan including public input, stakeholder groups as well as several other external and regional agencies. She provided an outline of the Bruce and Grey Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Model. She noted that the top five priorities of risk include:

- Addiction and substance abuse
- Mental health
- Crime prevention
- Housing and homelessness
- Poverty and income

Ms. Cowley then spoke to the focus on finding a local solution in response to the priority risk issues, the sustainability of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the proposed next steps in the Plan. She noted that the Plan will provide for a long-term investment in the communities.

Questions and comments from the Task Force member then followed.

## **Other Business**

There was none.

## **Next Meeting Dates**

**November 16, 2020 9:30 am.**

On motion by Councillor O'Leary and Seconded by Warden McQueen the meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.

Selwyn Hicks, Chair