

Hanover – Owen Sound Task Force

September 1, 2020 – 9:30 AM

The Hanover – Owen Sound Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members participating:

Present: Councillors Brian O’Leary, Brian Milne, Selwyn Hicks, Aakash Desai and Warden McQueen

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning; Scott Taylor, Senior Planner; Stephanie Lacey – Avon, Intermediate Planner; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Heather Morrison, Clerk and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

HOS01-20 Moved by: Councillor O’Leary Seconded by: Councillor Milne

That Councillor Hicks be nominated as Chair of the Hanover – Owen Sound Task Force.

On motion by Councillor Milne, nominations closed.

Councillor Hicks accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair.

HOS02-20 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Warden McQueen

That Councillor O’Leary be nominated as Vice Chair of the Hanover – Owen Sound Task Force.

On motion by Councillor Desai, nominations closed.

Councillor O’Leary accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair.

Councillor Hicks then assumed the Chair.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

Discuss the Task Force Mandate, Committee Role and Goals and Objectives

Kim Wingrove outlined the goals of the Task Force from the Terms of Reference.

Randy Scherzer then provided an outline of the official plan and how it relates to the settlement areas of Hanover and Owen Sound, which are the only two solely designated settlement areas in the County. The importance of ensuring that the settlement areas are able to grow and thrive was noted.

It was also noted that many social services are concentrated in the two communities and play a strong supporting role.

Councillor O'Leary spoke to issues that the City of Owen Sound has been experiencing related to mental health and drugs and the effects of these on policing in the City. More recently, there is a particular part of the City which is being affected and it is having an impact on residents in this area. There are concerns about the return to school and children that will be passing by. He noted that perhaps this is an issue for the Task Force to discuss and to develop a solution.

Discussion occurred on how to structure the Task Force meetings. There was a suggestion to hold meetings in accordance with themes, such as policing, labour projections and employment, and human and social services challenges.

The Task Force requested that the police chiefs for the two municipalities be invited to a future meeting.

There was a further suggestion to look at the work the Task Force will be doing through a climate change lens as well.

It was requested that the Task Force have a site visit at the appropriate time to better understand urban areas and their challenges and opportunities. Further, information on the local Ontario Addiction Treatment Centre was requested to better understand their services. It was also noted that it may be beneficial to have the Four County Labour Market Board attend a future meeting as well.

The Task Force suggested that it meet every two weeks, as it has a short time frame to reach its goals. Kim Wingrove noted that a work plan can be developed and brought

forward to the Task Force in two weeks' time. The need to bring in Social Services and Housing staff was noted as well.

Vice Chair O'Leary then assumed the Chair due to technical difficulties.

Discuss Hanover Boundaries Issues Project and Confirm No Overlap

Kim Wingrove noted that there may be a question of overlap between the work of this Task Force and the Town of Hanover. The Town has retained a planning firm to assist in discussions with neighbouring municipalities on industrial and commercial areas and taking inventory of serviced lands suitable for development.

Chair Hicks then resumed the Chair.

Ms. Wingrove noted that the work of the Task Force will be more focused on the socio – economic conditions of the two settlement areas and how to improve and take advantage of future opportunities. The Task Force will not be looking at land supply at this stage. The Task Force confirmed that it shares this perspective.

Planning staff noted they are bringing back a report in the future on boundaries within settlement areas. Additional lands may be needed to accommodate future growth. Staff are further exploring the matter and will report back on the findings.

Vice Chair O'Leary then resumed the Chair.

Discuss Processes or Opportunities for Information Gathering

Randy Scherzer noted that the Growth Management Study numbers will be coming forward later this year so additional information will be available. This discussion was covered under the review of the task force mandate.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

Staff will arrange for a next meeting date.

On motion by Warden McQueen and Milne, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

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Selwyn Hicks, Chair