

Community Consultation Meeting regarding the Horning's Mills Community Hall
Monday, October 19, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. - Zoom
Meeting Notes

All Council Members were in attendance:

Mayor Darren White
Deputy Mayor Dave Besley
Councillor Wayne Hannon
Councillor Margaret Mercer
Councillor David Thwaites

All Township Staff were present:

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk
Wendy Atkinson, Treasurer
Donna Funston, Admin/Finance Assistant
Kaitlin Chessell, Admin/Finance Assistant

Approximately 35-40 members of the public were present.

Mayor White called the public meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Mayor White made a statement about the inaccuracies that he has been hearing out in the public about the sale of the Hall which is untrue. He also stated that closing of the hall had not been discussed either.

Mayor White went through the five proposals that were compiled by Council and listed on the Agenda. He then opened the meeting up to discussion.

- ██████████
- submitted letter
 - was on the Board twice
 - listed events that she has attended at the hall
 - keep hall open and running – new families are using it that can benefit from it and we could use them as volunteers
 - requires strong volunteer Board
 - Look at getting new people on the board - as burnout is clearly happening

- ██████████
- her preference is to give back to Women's Institute
 - hall has become politicized and is not a political issue at all
 - part of the community would like to see it thrive
 - always make sure there is consistent financial contributions
 - run by unbiased group of people
 - really need a fresh start

- ██████████
- how many people on the WI? It's a big undertaking – only about 5 people ██████████
- ██████████

- everyone would like to see a vibrant community hall without a lot of anxiety, or difficulty of various kinds
- can't run the hall with bake sales – not realistic to expect the vast amount of volunteers the Township needs to commit to maintaining
- very useful if the township commits to maintain the building it owns and the Township works with the volunteers for the business plan
- helpful if the Township works with volunteers to come up with a business plan
- programs for seniors, kids, music
- rolling three year business plan
- structure of governance should grow out of the business plan. Township be proud owner and possibly spend more money and have a model to stand out for Melancthon

- if renting out for a wedding where alcohol will be served, charge a security deposit for clean up of mess

Mayor White

- is hoping to touch on rentals tonight. Would this be to raise funds or would you rather see things like programs just for the community – yoga nights, etc.

- agree with [REDACTED] – need some structure, long term repairs, parking lot, rental set by the Board
- meeting on how we are going to structure the governance
- burnout volunteers and volunteers are hard to come by
- volunteer board needs to be running, the board lead by the Township

- couple comments with the presentation to the WI – there have been many people sign up. There are 8 members.
- there is burnout happening but the burnout is from negotiating funding with Council and the question of ownership
- people best suited is how this hall can best serve the people of the community and it would be the ones doing it all along
- people have come to her to ask her to volunteer and have a fresh start
- Her preference is to give it back to the Women's Institute

- really enjoying this exchange
- provided the [REDACTED] background – grew up in the community
- [REDACTED] part of their heritage
- he has a background in business management
- spoke about structure of a new committee, and thinks it should be run by a Board of Directors, ideal number seven, 3 year term, with sub-committees

- what are people's thoughts about combining one Board? Park Board and Hall Board

- might complicate matters instead of streamlining them
- would be more efficient to run the hall with a full board of events
- should be kept separate to run more efficiently
- could come together for certain events

Deputy Mayor Besley

- reaction as far as the administration side of the hall - board responsible for booking dates, upkeep rentals, cleaning, is it too much?
- identified that there is burnout
- it is too much

- the burnout is about financial - lack of funding from Council
- if contribution is \$10,000.00 - \$20,000.00 annually you wouldn't see burnout
- her last comment – the administrative structure will depend on what proposal we go forward with
- would be happy to be a member on the board

- need assured that the Council will fund the hall the same way as we fund the library, rec centres, we should fund our own local hall and need a supportive Councillor on the board
- give to the WI have members and non members of the WI on the board but Township still fund it

- he has a birds eye view of the Hall
- he has been involved in recreation his whole life
- thinks it's a wonderful hall – community driven
- Township should be chipping in some more money certainly with its value in the community

- she showed up tonight to get info
- business plan structure - perhaps we do need to look at this
- cost analysis of where current money comes from and where it is being spent

Mayor White

- it takes about \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 range for operations – keeping the lights on
- improvements and capital work is all separate items

Councillor Mercer

- regarding the options there - are there any options that we don't want – one was the joint park/hall board

- last option is definitely off the table
- no benefit in combining the two boards, park runs smoothly

- keep the problems where they belong
- should be very careful not to compete with Shelburne
- the costs will just continue and continue
- are all the attendees from the Horning's Mills community? It was mentioned that yes, the majority are from Horning's Mills
- his preference is to give back to the WI and the Horning's Mills community are perfectly capable of running the show – let them run it
- the Township must commit to x amount at least for a couple years so they know what they're dealing with and can go about their business

[REDACTED]

- WI doesn't have enough members and may not be able to run it. Should not go back to WI.

[REDACTED]

- Been on the board for 8 years and would like to see it given back to the WI as him and [REDACTED] have just joined and would help run it

[REDACTED]

- echo [REDACTED]'s point
- give it back to the WI
- should go back and be run by the public and board
- Council's governance not a benefit
- tax dollars would be recreational use

Mayor White & [REDACTED]

- DW - the wish of Council - love to support the things that are a benefit to the Community
- [REDACTED] - doesn't see how this would fail
- DW - how do we end up getting there – doesn't have a problem with investment in Horning's Mills hall
- [REDACTED] - need enough to cover operating
- DW - dedicated annual funding – reserve or capital fund to fund roof repairs (future projects)

[REDACTED]

- suggestion of residents paying a membership fee, members get discounts on rentals

[REDACTED]

- has been in touch with halls around the area and how they generate revenue
- some places do have costing programs
- non commercial vs commercial use – i.e. - concerts, after school program, cost recovery structure
- generate revenue would be part of the business plan

[REDACTED]

- who is on the hall board now

Mayor White

- the answer was no one – Board term expired in April

- entering a time of very much change
- he feels the hall is very important - central place for the community
- sheltered people in Honeywood for emergencies
- the community is blessed with the hall
- offering a soup kitchen should be a consideration

Mayor White

- Township took funding opportunity to purchase a generator so the hall could be used in emergency power outage, designated emergency shelter

- whatever structure need to re-image the programs but it just isn't for Horning's Mills but for the Township at large. Need to imagine bigger

Mayor White

- there is no other functioning hall in the Township – point well taken

- need to decide what we want moving forward
- \$10,000.00/year contribution
- new Board with Council Member
- need younger people in there to get this up and going again

Mayor White

- Won't walk out with an answer tonight, invited all to join at the next Council meeting as there would be further discussion and all meetings are open to the public

- going to be hard to decide
- everyone should email with their opinion and suggestions

Mayor White

- Said they would love to see emails with people's choices

Councillor Hannon

- do we as a Council have the ability to guarantee funding over the long time
- Mayor White didn't have an answer – would consult with the CAO/Clerk

- she is fairly new to the community, and says it is important to have the hall when trying to meet new people in the area
- would really like to see the hall funding and activities she enjoyed come back

- her observation so far is who will give over the hall financial aspect
- how will the amount of funds to date and offer be determined by Council for the hall?
- is the community going to request an amount
- Mayor White responded that this is a hard question to answer. Sooner rather than later figure out the governance piece
- then they say here's what we plan to do, cost going forward and what we will need to fund it

Councillor Mercer

- talked about a business plan and that could identify some of the costs
- this could be something that is required

Mayor White

- full scale building assessment to make a capital plan
- not fair to ask the community to come up with a bunch of money

- people interested in hearing what councils opinions are
- if the hall what services would you like and what services would councillors like to see and plan for

Mayor White

- would like to see community based programs on a local level – yoga, jam making, paint nights, after school programs (but likely lots of legalities involved in that)
- would like rentals to be secondary revenue source

Councillor Mercer

- she likes status quo option but do need a business plan
- mission and vision, sky is the limit
- opportunity for people to thrive in the hall, make some money
- memberships
- thought current volunteers were doing a good job
- she didn't think it was broke
- quite profitable
- business plan and some focus
- prenominal ideas for programs
- new volunteers
- maybe would volunteer those services (prepare business plan)

Councillor Hannon

- think the board that was there doing a commendable job. Got burnt out due to Council
- see us stay with status quo
- business plan a great idea
- capital forecast for reserves
- bring in some new people for sub-committees

Deputy Mayor Besley

- concur with some of the thoughts of fellow councillors
- status quo but a hybrid type
- committee for Easter egg hunt, Christmas dinners, etc.
- really hate to see regular board members doing day to day fund-raisers. Sub committees could take some of the responsibilities of the Hall to help Board members
- business plan, co-related makes all the sense in the world
- get more committees

Councillor Thwaites

- appreciate hearing from the community, verbal and written
- development of a structure in some form
- some form of hybrid structure be considered
- he's open to looking at a different options
- wants to move forward with a business plan

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- business plan is the responsibility of the community and it is their business and Councillors shouldn't have any input
- Councillor on Board has no benefit
- Board wants to come to council with an issue they can do so
- he sees real benefit in separating the two (council and board)

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- property tax – what is it if it goes back to the WI
- Mayor White asked Ms. ██████████ to send him an email as he did not know the answer

Councillor Mercer

- board of volunteers that would prepare a business plan??

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- if there is a business plan, the community should do it to justify certain funding requirements that's appropriate

As there were no more comments, Mayor White advised of the next steps which is to take this back to Council for discussion.

He encouraged those present to send in emails with suggestions and preferences on the proposals. The next Council meeting is November 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and will be a Zoom meeting. Anyone can attend and this will be on the agenda

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.