



Minutes of Homelessness Task Force

October 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Electronic and In-Person Participation - Homelessness Task Force

The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville

(Chair and Secretary at Town Hall - 87 Broadway)

Orangeville, Ontario

Members Present: R. Alvarez
Councillor Andrews
T. Carter
Councillor Sherwood

Members Absent: E. Dunn
E. Goodyear
T. Grabb

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2023-007

Moved By T. Carter

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: September 20, 2023

Carried

4. Presentations

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

5.1 Dufferin Men's Shelter

Chair Andrews provided an update on behalf of Vice-Chair Goodyear. Mr. Keith Ward is now the new Chair for Choices Youth Shelter and Dufferin Men's Shelter. Mr. Ward has an extensive resume in dealing with shelters and social service and he supports development and stabilization of the programs. The Board has been expanded, and now has 8 members. Jamie Edge is the new Executive Director with a background in human resources and grant writing. Vice-Chair Goodyear is no longer the Executive Director and there will be a transitional period after which time she will be stepping down completely from the role. Currently there are 17 men in the shelter (all Dufferin County residents) and they are trying to get housed. The shelter is working with Dufferin County to meet all criteria for the emergency funding. The shelter is also receiving donations from community members, and will receive funds from the Rotary Event being held October 21, 2023. The shelter is setting up a Fundraising Committee and all members of the community are welcome to join.

H. Savage discussed the issue of encampments on public property and the complaints received which are referred to OPP. The Town has advised the OPP of the areas where there are encampments, or individuals sleeping outside of storefronts, and the OPP have confirmed that they are aware of and working with those individuals (wellness checks, etc.).

Town staff have been handing out cards to those homeless/near homeless individuals with all contact information of support agencies for those that show up at our facilities. Staff is aware of the R-Zone which is a policy enacted to ensure staff is safe at all facilities.

5.2 County of Dufferin Emergency Services - Support Trailers

On September 29, 2023 Chair Andrews and Councillor Macintosh attended the unveiling of the emergency shelters trailer. Eight trailers have been provided (trailer for each municipality) and these trailers will provide short term relocation of individuals during emergencies (snow, flooding, accidents). The trailers include 15 cots and comes equipped with blankets, sustainable items including food, etc. The trailer can be transported to different areas of Town, but will likely be located behind Alder or Town Hall. At this point Chair Andrews was not sure if it could be used for private purposes or shared.

5.3 Town of Orangeville Official Plan

Chair Andrews discussed the meeting held with the B. Ward, Manager of Planning and H. Savage. The meeting was to discuss the Official Plan and to look at different ways to approach the homelessness/near homelessness issues facing the Town and the lack of affordable housing.

B. Ward advised municipalities are trying to meet the need of housing, but there is still an absence of enough housing. There are alternative ways of supporting more housing including garden suites/in-law suites/garden sheds; however the Building Code does not allow certain sized sheds to be an occupied shelter.

While the Town does face challenges with the Official Plan, there is still an opportunity to change it in order to benefit the homeless/near homeless population.

When looking at the definition of affordable housing, "SHIP" indicates that it is a 400 sq ft home or less, and the price point for the new units being built on First Street, would be less than \$1000 per month, but an application will be required.

The Town needs to educate the community on creating legal basement apartments, or introduce an incentive to have homeowners turn their illegal basement apartments into legal ones. Another option is to rent rooms within someone's home. Another option is to look at an asset that the Town has (land) and look at other alternatives for housing (Tiny Homes).

Chair Andrews and H. Savage indicated planning staff will bring two amendments to Council - add accessory units (planning act has done it but we need to do the by-law) and change zoning for accessory units. Suggested that the planning department tap into other municipalities and see what they are doing and how they are dealing with these issues.

The planning department is currently preparing an inventory of land available and land acquisition strategy in the Town, and the committee has requested this information once it is available.

The committee agreed to create an affordable housing sub-committee to assemble individuals to come up with some answers and maybe get some unique perspectives on how to tackle this issue (i.e. vacant lots - people need to potentially be taxed for vacant lands to encourage development; campaign to explain "additional housing". Explain what is a legal accessory unit and send out building inspector to assist on how to make separate living areas legal).

5.4 2023/2024 Workplan Final Review

H. Savage provided a presentation on encampments.

The Committee agreed to make the Affordable Housing sub-group an Affordable Housing and Encampment sub-group to be added to the workplan.

T. Carter suggested that the focus of the committee still needs to be on the shelter and looking for solutions, and that money is required for these shelters to be successful.

An invite to be sent to Anna McGregor (and anyone else she would like) to attend the December meeting. Action item for the committee members to prepare some questions for Anna McGregor and bring those questions to the November meeting so that we are prepared.

E. Goodyear available to present the workplan/report to Council.

T. Barry to send out a meeting invite to the entire Committee to attend the council meeting where the workplans are presented.

5.5 Community Cold Weather Support

Defer to next meeting.

6. Correspondence

None

7. New Business

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is November 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.