

**MINDEMOYA OLD SCHOOL REPURPOSING COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 20, 2018  
CENTRAL MANITOULIN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Janice McQuay, Joanne Smith, Mayor Richard Stephens, Chairperson Ted Williamson, and Economic Development Officer Nancy Kinoshameg, 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public. Regrets: Sam Bondi and Councillor Linda Farquhar. Absent: Councillor Alex Baran and Hal Love.

Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.

**MOTION: Smith and McQuay**

That the agenda be approved with the addition of 6 c) Rural 60 Plus information...carried.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

The members present who met with LAMBAC and funders on February 12 provided a summary of the meeting for those that did not attend. Funding is available for economic development, such as, business incubation and commercial space as required by the community. It was suggested by the funders that a feasibility study could provide options for repurposing with financial models that included capital and operating needs. LAMBAC is willing to assist in writing an application for a study. Minutes of the meeting have been requested and will be drafted by the EDO, who was at the meeting and took notes.

**MOTION: McQuay and Smith**

To apply for funds for a feasibility study on repurposing the Old School Building and to work with LAMBAC to prepare the application...carried.

The EDO and Janice will work with LAMBAC to prepare the application for funding. It was suggested that Linda Belton could also provide some assistance since she has experience writing applications. Once the application is ready a motion can be made to Council for support and approval.

Information on the ParkSide Centre in Sudbury was provided by Ted. He described the various programs and activities offered. The Committee members felt these could be offered here on a smaller scale. The EDO found some old financial information, from 2004, that showed an annual budget of \$230,000 for ParkSide.

The diversified plan revolves around the seniors' centre that is dubbed a better living centre and possibly business incubators to fill every corner of the building. It is hoped that the feasibility study could provide options for diversification.

The 2-page questionnaire has been professionally printed and will be bulk mailed to residents in Central Manitoulin and surrounding jurisdictions. Several committee members have already agreed to cover the nominal expense of \$500. It will also be available by Survey Monkey. Since posting it on Facebook on February 17, 9 responses have come in. The member of the public commented the Health Unit may be able to make 100 copies for free.

The input from seniors is important to support our efforts and so that MOSRC is not perceived as telling them what they need to do to the building. There was some discussion on applying for a Seniors Community Grant Program before March 31, 2018. The project could initiate the Health Units' seniors' programs in an existing venue. It was expressed that the committee should focus on getting the repurposed Old School up and running before planning programs in other community venues.

The generous donation offered by Manitoulin Transport was brought up for discussion so as not to forget there may be funds available to get things done.

The Energy Efficiency Assessment from Green Economy North was reviewed for information. It reiterates what the other reports on the building have said to date. The Planning Consideration of the report mentioned council 'must determine the suitable balance of maintaining existing physical capital and decommissioning in response to fiscal constraints.' Committee members brought that forward for discussion and asked what is needed to convince Council to repurpose the building. The Mayor responded that a proposal should show it is viable and self-sustaining.

Ted would like to appoint a Vice-Chair for the Committee so that if he is unavailable for a meeting there is someone to take on the leadership position. After some procedural discussion, he would like to ask Sam Bondi to take the position if he is willing. Ted will contact Sam.

The next meeting will be held on **MONDAY March 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Central Manitoulin Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on a **motion by Janice McQuay**.