

Date: November 2, 2009
Location: St Philomena's Church Hall
Subject: Minutes of the HIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance: Terry Botten, Gary Hall, David Jones, Gary Nichol, Austin Page, Robert Staples
Regrets: Faye Muller, Brian Humphrys.
Guests: Norm Vincent, Wilf Garrah, Matt Feine, Pat Norris, Bob McClennon, Tim Taugher.

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
<u>The meeting commenced at 5pm preceded by a tour of the old school house</u>	
Minutes of last meeting were accepted as given.	
Item of discussion.	Name
<p>Future use of the old school house</p> <p>At the October 13, 2009 Township Council meeting, the future of the old school house was discussed and following an expression of interest by residents to explore ways to preserve the building, the Council agreed to contact the School Board and request that they give the community six months to develop a plan for the old school house to be used as a location to preserve the history of Howe Island.</p> <p>After considerable discussion, an action plan was developed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The School Board is to be approached to determine the current status of environmental condition of the land and the building. Concern was expressed that the land could have been contaminated during its period of use as the fire hall and the age of the building could present a risk of mold and other contamination. Wilf Garrah agreed to follow up with the School Board. b) Next, an idea of the cost to restore the building to a useable state must be determined. Austin Page will contact some of the local construction talent to get advice on the condition of the building and a rough estimate of the costs. c) Wilf Garrah will approach the Board to determine if they plan to move the building prior to offering the land for sale. If the building is to be moved either prior to sale or after, transportation costs must be estimated. Of course, a suitable location for the building would have to be found should it be moved. Pat Norris indicated that he wasn't opposed moving the school and that council would consider it. d) If the plan is to proceed, the Historical Society will have to be reconstituted. Norm Vincent agreed to take this on. e) Should the plan proceed, organizational issues such as building ownership (Township or a separate entity) and the form of organization to run the Historical operation need to be determined. f) It was recognized that for the project to be successful, passionate and capable leadership will have to be devoted to steer the project through the funding and organizational hurdles. 	

Wolfe Islander III environmental assessment

The Correspondence received from the Consulting Engineers in response to the enquiry from the chair of HIRA was reviewed. The correspondence from the Consulting engineers referred to a wide range of reasonable alternatives which will be explored – AND THE ALTERNATIVES MAY INCLUDE ACCESS OPTIONS VIA HOWE ISLAND.

The board was encouraged that we will now be included in the project mailing list and we have been advised that we will be notified “of all future consultation activities related to this study”.

The Board will continue to monitor the progress of this study.

Howe Island Waste Management Committee and HIRA's 2009/10 initiative

Tim Taugher and Bob McClennon, representing the Committee, reported on the status of their project following their presentation to the Township Council at the last meeting. The Committee is requesting from the Township that a suitable area for disposing of clean brush be established since there is no place on the island to dispose of the clean brush following the closure of the Howe Island drive location. They suggest that an area at the recycling location would seem to be best.

Brush, at present, can be taken to the Kinterra facility for a fee or residents can obtain a permit to enable burning the brush.

The Brush issue is a part of HIRA's overall initiative which also includes Recycling area maintenance, a pride in our island campaign and annual junk pick up.

The Waste Management Committee plans to approach Council again and will research some of the concerns such as the need for licensing to store brush and fire regulations relating to brush storage prior to meeting with Council.

Road rehabilitation and park/parking at the Township ferry

HIRA was concerned about the condition of the area around the Township ferry. The parking and turn around space is too large and needs to be corrected. The Garden Buds were not consulted before hand and they must be part of the remediation solution. Pat Norris committed to ensuring that the situation be corrected. Terry Botten will follow up with the Township to see what the plans are for this area.

By-law update

Austin Page reported on the by-law developments. Work is proceeding on a by-law addressing litter

on the Island. It will be restricted to public areas since a by-law cannot deal with litter on private land.

Action has commenced to deal with a trailer that is not conforming to the existing trailer by-law

Treasurers report

The bank balance amounted to \$1219.38

Membership report

Membership stands at 114 paid members.

Other business

Concern was expressed about the excessive speed of the numerous large trucks as they race back and forth from the Quarry to the road reconstruction site.

David Jones agreed to contact the OPP to request that they talk to the contractor and the truckers and request that they slow down before an unfortunate and unnecessary accident occurs.

Meeting adjourned time 6:40PM	
Next meeting December 7, 5 PM at St. Philomena's Hall. Members are welcome	