



Agenda

Homelessness Task Force Meeting

December 20, 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

NOTICE

Members of the public wishing to view Homelessness Task Force meetings will have the option to attend in-person or by calling 1-289-801-5774 and entering Conference ID: 697 198 859#

Please note that your full name and comments will be part of the public record and will be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, written comments may be sent to the Secretary of Homelessness Task Force by email at tbarry@orangeville.ca. Such written comments will become part of the public record.

Accessibility Accommodations

If you require access to information in an alternate format, please contact the Clerk's division by phone at 519-941-0440 x 2242 or via email at clerksdept@orangeville.ca

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest	
3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting	3
Recommendations:	
That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: November 15, 2023	
4. Presentations	
4.1 Dufferin County Representative - Anna McGregor, Director Community Services	9
5. Items for Discussion and Reports	
5.1 Dufferin Men's Shelter	
5.2 Out of the Cold Program Update	
5.3 Affordable Housing	
5.4 Future Guest Speakers	
6. Correspondence	

7. New Business
8. Date of Next Meeting
9. Adjournment



Minutes of Homelessness Task Force

November 15, 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
E. Dunn
T. Grabb
Councillor Sherwood

Members Absent: E. Goodyear

Staff Present: T. Barry, Executive Assistant, Community Services
H. Savage, General Manager, Community Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2023-008

Moved By Councillor Sherwood

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: October 18, 2023

4. Presentations

4.1 Constable Ryan Vogt from OPP to discuss Homelessness Issues in Orangeville

Unable to attend and T. Barry to send Constable Vogt an invite for the January 17, 2024 meeting.

4.2 Acting Chief Mike Richardson to discuss Homelessness Issues

Acting Chief Richardson discussed homelessness issues in Orangeville and surrounding areas (the issue is not just in Orangeville). Acting Chief Richardson provided a document regarding unsheltered encampments (tents, abandoned structures). This document is a draft guidance note from the Province setting out hazards, being kept up to date on locations of encampments, and communicating with local EMS and Police to work together. Orangeville Fire is looking at its Standard Operating Procedures with respect to encampments and unsheltered encampments, as the department is seeing an uptick in dealing with encampments and the homeless, a lot of which are burning complaints (heat, cooking) up to medical conditions - drug paraphernalia. Acting Chief Richardson did confirm that there are tent cities scattered throughout the Town.

Chair Andrews asked if the fire department will be putting together an inventory of where these encampments are located?

Acting Chief Richardson did advise that the fire crews know the locations, but do not know all of them as they can occur anywhere. Acting Chief Richardson also explained that there is a coordination with OPP and EMS attending on these calls.

T. Grabb talked about a homelessness outreach team. Acting Chief Richardson confirmed that fire is called in for fires and medical and he confirms that there has been an uptick in encampment fires throughout the Province. When fire is called about someone on private property (i.e. Lakeview or Alder Recreation Centre), fire contacts OPP as well so that they can do a wellness check and they often bring a member of the MCRRT team (Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team). The OPP will report back and indicate that they are monitoring but it is up to the Town if a trespass notice is issued.

It was suggested that a crisis intervention worker attend at the encampments - the worker could do wellness checks and see how they can help and come back and bring food, sleeping bag, whatever is needed.

T. Carter asked about the locations and demographics of those in the encampments. Acting Chief Richardson advised that there is no set demographic and the encampments are generally located away from general public (well hidden as the individuals do not want the public to be aware of it).

Chair Andrews discussed a document created by the City of London which provided a report regarding People Centred and Housing Centric which discussed how to support those in need and the collective effort to respond. T. Barry to circulate the document to the committee.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

5.1 Update on Men's Shelter

Chair Andrews provided an update on the Dufferin Men's Shelter on behalf of E. Goodyear.

A new board and chair were officially sworn in last month. Keith Ward is the new Chair and Jamie Edge is the new director. It was suggested that Jamie Edge attend one of the Committee's upcoming meetings. With respect to the expectations from the County, things are more positive, and financially the expense request is less than what was perceived to be. It appears the shelter is in a better financially and the County will step up and provide what is necessary.

Out of the Cold Shelter - Unfortunately since the Shelter was going through the transition of a new board chair, the shelter could not offer the out of the cold program this year. H. Savage advised that a report to council was going November 27, 2023 to work with not-for-profit, the Light House located at 207 Broadway. H. Savage has had discussions with Pastor Matt to discuss the potential program. The Committee will invite Pastor Mike to one of the upcoming meetings.

The concept is that the Light House will host an overnight program from those in need from December to April, and H. Savage will speak to Pastor Matt about how the program will run and what funds are available.

The next agenda will discuss the outcome of the meeting with Pastor Matt, and how the Out of the Cold program will work.

5.2 Feedback on presentation to Council of 2023/2024 Workplan

Vice Chair Goodyear provided an overview of the Committee's workplan at the Council meeting on November 13, 2023 and Council approved and accepted the workplan as presented.

5.3 Tiny Homes / Alternative Housing Options - Open Discussion

H. Savage, Chair Andrews, Mayor Post and Chris DeCastro discussed a tiny home concept (developed by Chris DeCastro) to be located at Blind and Broadway. Following the meeting, H. Savage spoke to the Town's planning department to see if there would be any issues with building this proposed community. H. Savage discussed it with A. McGregor, and the County, in theory, advised that they would like to explore the partnership as it would be passed over to the County (lease to own, etc.). Chris DeCastro also advised that he had a list of individuals in Town who would be happy to have a suite built in their backyard (separate from their home) to assist. This would come down to a change in re-zoning and secondary suites.

A pre-consultation meeting has been set for November 27, 2023 to discuss the logistics and likelihood of this type of project.

There was discussion about a millionaire in Fredericton who invested his own funds to create a tiny home community. This is the link to the information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pst6Z6vb9fl&pp=ygUhZnJlZGVyaWN0b24gbWlsbGlubmFpciB0aW55IGhvbWVz>

5.4 Formulate Questions for Ms. McGregor

The Committee discussed possible questions for Anna McGregor, Director of Community Services, County of Dufferin, who will be attending the January committee meeting. The following are some questions to potentially be provided to Ms. McGregor:

1. What supports outside of MCCRT are the County providing. What "next five steps" is the County providing to assist those in need.
2. The Town of Orangeville does have a problem with homelessness in the community and it is not being adequately dealt with. Where is the County in assisting with providing programs like Out of the Cold. Why does the

Town take the initiative in dealing with the crisis. It appears Orangeville is doing more than the County to try to solve these problems.

3. What is the solution for those individuals living rough/homeless. County of Dufferin is responsible for these issues - please advise what the plan and process is for those (i.e. case workers?).

4. What is the plan for those individuals today who are living rough and have significant health issues. What is the plan in supporting them every year going forward.

5. What are the financial supports for those in need (mental health, addictions, finances)

6. There is a Housing Advisory Council that meets every week to discuss housing issues - the County is on this Council. What is the role of this council at looking at solutions for those homeless individuals

The homeless/near homeless situation is all about purpose and achieving results. There is a problem, but we need a solution to the problem - how do we meet this need? The Town can assist the County but we need answers in place. Together we can make a difference - we need to find a way to be part of the conversation.

Action item - T. Barry to circulate to H. Savage, Chair Andrews and Vice Chair Goodyear the questions and the committee will come up with 4 questions to provide to Ms. McGregor prior to the meeting.

6. Correspondence

None

7. New Business

E. Dunn advised that fundraising has started for Choices Youth Shelter and Dufferin Men's Shelter and to date \$14,000 has been raised. Bikes, phones, winter boots were able to be purchased for 34 different clients. There is also a raffle for December 1 and there will be a variety of different prizes to be won. There are numerous businesses that are contributing in the community by giving back a percentage of admissions, sales, etc. to the shelters.

They are always looking for extra volunteers for fundraising and any other volunteer duties. Contact Erica Dunn if you are interested in being a volunteer.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting called to an end at 8:30 p.m.

QUESTIONS FOR ANNA MCGREGOR

1. When it comes to County involvement, what tangibly is offered to an individual who does not have anywhere to go – what are the next steps that are made available to assist them?
2. Can the County provide Crisis Intervention Workers to attend on medical/fire/police calls to assist?
3. The number of homeless is not only defined by the By-Names List that the County has. What can be done so that the County realizes that there is a homelessness/near homelessness issue beyond what is recorded in the By-Names List. For instances can the County reach out to the OPP, the Fire Department and EMS in order to proactively identify and record instances of homelessness that may not show up in the By-names List
4. It seems the Town of Orangeville is taking the lead on housing issues, (Out of the Cold, encampments). It is imperative that all levels of government work together, but Housing and Homelessness are the responsibility of the upper tier government. However, the Town appears to be driving some initiatives. Is the County doing behind-the-scenes work that we are not aware of that might evidence that the County is wanting to take the lead in addressing homelessness in the County?
5. What are the financial supports from the County available for those in need?
6. A Housing Advisory Council meets weekly to discuss housing issues, and the County is a member of this Council. What is the role of this Council in looking at solutions for those in need. Could you share a copy of the work plan? What are the main deliverables?
7. Would the County be prepared to undertake an advertising campaign in the local paper, signs at all business and commercial operations, community centers, libraries, the hospital, medical clinics, OPP station, social media and with all community groups and clubs, including churches in order to publicize the free voucher for motel stays, so that everyone knows that no one needs to be homeless in the County of Dufferin?
8. Is the County prepared to allow the Edelbrock Centre be used for an overnight Out of the Cold Program in the winter?