

MUNICIPALITY OF HASTINGS HIGHLANDS STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

Council is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the period of 2015-2019 and would like your input.

The intent of the Strategic Planning document is to provide a framework to guide the strategic direction of the Municipality between 2015 and 2019. Please review the proposed Strategic Plan components in this questionnaire and write your comments in the spaces provided on this form or on a separate sheet of paper and submit it on or before August 28, 2015 to the municipal office at 3301 Hwy. 62 North, P.O. Box 130 Maynooth, Ontario, K0L 2S0 or by email to stratplanning@hastingshighlands.ca. Alternately please consider the online version of this questionnaire which can be found at www.hastingshighlands.ca

For inquiries please contact Penny Sharman by telephone at 613-650-1800 or by email at PSharman@cogeco.ca

The Process

Members of Council and senior staff met on March 11, 2015 for a day-long strategic planning exercise facilitated by the consultant, Penny Sharman. On that day, the group completed a SWOT analysis and identified the municipality's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The group then identified the municipality's decreasing and increasing pressures. Simply put, decreasing pressures can be priority items that were on Council's/Senior Staff's to-do list and have been completed or are no longer a priority. Conversely, increasing pressures are those things that have or will become a priority on the list because of need or public demand or perhaps that it is in the municipality's best interest to accomplish. The final tasks of the day were to develop a wish list of strategic actions and to prioritize the wish list.

On April 15, 2015, the consultant presented council with the results of the prioritizing exercise. Also based on the strategic actions contained in the Wish List, the focus areas or goals were easily identified. Council directed Ms. Sharman to proceed to write the Draft Strategic Plan and work with a committee to develop the Vision and Mission Statements. A committee consisting of two members of Council, two senior staff, a member of the public and the consultant met on April 30, 2015 to develop the two statements.

The main components of the proposed strategic plan are as follows:-

Vision

The Vision Statement describes what the municipality is striving to become

Proposed Vision

Hastings Highlands will continue to be a vibrant progressive rural community working together to build a prosperous future, while fully realizing its motto “*Beautiful by Nature*”

Comments:

Mission

The Mission Statement describes how the Vision will be achieved.

Proposed Mission

Hastings Highlands will foster the development of a community that understands the importance of economic development and the natural landscape while enabling everyone to enjoy a desirable quality of life.

The municipality will achieve this through embracing and enhancing honest and open communication, prudent infrastructure planning and management and corporate integrity.

Comments:

Focus Areas (Goals)

The Focus Areas identify the key areas of interest and responsibility

Proposed Focus Areas

- Infrastructure
To effectively respond to the challenges of addressing the municipality's infrastructure needs.
- Economic Development
To promote and manage economic development
- Good Governance & Effective Administration
To provide effective and efficient municipal governance and administration.
- Health, Recreation, Culture & Lifestyle
To promote healthy lifestyles and to meet the broad range of community needs.
- Environment
To preserve and enhance the natural heritage features and resources of the municipality

Comments:

Strategic Actions

Within each Focus Area (Goal), there will be one or more strategic actions that will move the Municipality forward in achieving the goals.

Proposed Strategic Actions

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Plan for Highway 62
- Complete Phase Two of Asset Management Plan – update Roads & Bridges Inventory & Plan and complete for all other assets
- Plan for Return on Infrastructure Investment Strategy (Maximizing the municipal dollars)

- Assess the feasibility and need for a Sustainable Public Transit

Comments:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Develop an Economic Development Strategy
- Tourism Strategy

Comments:

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION

- Developing or providing tools to assist Council to make informed and fiscally sound decisions and to assist staff in implementing those decisions and providing advice to council
- Review Information Technology for needs and gaps
- Develop a Reserve Strategy Plan
- Develop a Financial Viability Strategy

- Develop a Lobbying Strategy for issues impacting the municipality and imposed by senior levels of government, e.g. policing costs, competitive grants, legislation
- Create a protocol for the development, fostering and maintenance of partnerships
- Explore opportunities for attracting new innovative projects to be located in the municipality (such as the Municipal Office/Library/Gymnasium hub)
- Review of Zoning By-law & Mapping
- Educating the public on the complexity of tasks and municipal staff workload

Comments:

HEALTH, RECREATION, CULTURE & LIFESTYLE

- Develop a Master Recreation Plan – including but not limited to
 - Inventory of all parks, existing and potential recreation facilities, recreation activities
 - Assess need for dedicated park position(s)
 - Create a volunteer database
- Develop a Business Case for submission to the Hastings Local Housing Corporation for the supply of affordable housing units in Hastings Highlands
- Plan to Partner with Lake Associations, MNR re Docking & Launch Facilities and other appropriate initiatives
- Maintain & Keep up with the Growth of Life in the Community – (Health, Lifestyle, Focus) i.e. provide residents with information regarding available services such as health care and recreation.

Comments:

ENVIRONMENT

- Landfill Microscope (Future costs, Closing Costs, Planning for those Costs)
- Promote responsible stewardship of our lakes and natural features –
 - Investigating the feasibility of implementing a septic system re-inspection Program

Comments:

Thank you for your interest and participation.