

DSB rep to meet Gore Bay clerk regarding possible land transfer for seniors' housing

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The Recorder

MANITOULIN—The CAO of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) has been directed by the board to meet with Gore Bay Town Clerk Annette Clarke in regards to a vacant piece of property owned by the former (by the Bayside apartment property in town), possibly being transferred to the town for the creation of a senior housing complex.

"I was directed by our board to meet with the Clerk of Gore Bay to look at options," Fern Dominelli, CAO of the DSB told the Recorder after its September board meeting last week.

As reported previously, the West End Manitoulin Seniors and Support Services Interest Group had received a grant of \$10,000 through the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation (CMHC) and hired SHS consulting to provide a business plan which was then presented to the DSB at the end of June.

The seniors housing group had requested DSB relinquish the plot of land located at the Bayside Apartment property on Water Street in Gore Bay for the home of future seniors' housing.

"We got a price estimate on (the worth) of the property," Mr. Dominelli told the Recorder. "The (seniors housing committee) had attended a (DSB) meeting in June, and later the town council said they would accept the transfer of property.

In June, town council had agreed in principle to accept a parcel of land from (DSB)

for the purpose of developing senior citizens housing.

The group had received seed funding of \$10,000 through CMHC to assist in the development of a community development plan for seniors housing and support services on the west end of Manitoulin Island. SHS, under the direction of Ed Starr, analyzed the data that the group had gathered from 220 seniors from the West End of the Island (from Kagawong to Meldrum Bay) using a 30-page survey from CMHC.

On September 6, 2011 the group received a needs and demands analysis for affordable seniors' housing. The group completed a final business plan in February 2012.

While the group originally thought 12 housing units should be looked at, the consultants suggested 20 and the site location being looked at is the south extension of the Bayside property on Water Street. It appears as if this property would be ideal as it is relatively flat, around one acre in size, and relatively close to downtown, with sewers and water just in front.

Council passed a motion to agree in principle to accept the parcel of land from the DSB for the purposes of developing senior citizens' housing in Gore Bay (approving the acquisition), should DSB make a decision to either transfer the property or sell it to the group, who have indicated they would fundraise for this amount.

As for the meeting with Ms. Clarke on behalf of the town, Mr. Dominelli told the Recorder, "no date has been set yet for the meeting—we chatted yesterday and will be talking again in the very near future."