



Minutes

Parry Sound Downtown Business Association

July 31, 2024, 6:00pm – Sew Extreme

Special Board Meeting to provide recommendations to The Town of Parry Sound

Re: Big Sound Marina & Town Dock Analysis

In Attendance

Board Members: in person - Tim Dunn, Doug Wilton, Meredith McCaffrey, Bernice Anderson

Councill Representative:

Regrets: Chris McDonald, Kaila Stevenson

Absent: Dave Williams, Don Corbett

Staff: April Denman

Guests: none

The following are notes gathered at the meeting to submit to the Town of Parry Sound's request for public comment on their website on the Big Sound Marina & Town Dock analysis report from Karen Jones Consulting.

- Is The Town of Parry Sound endorsing private businesses? Why is a private business written into this document? In fairness to all tax paying businesses Downtown and in the Town of Parry Sound, this document should speak only to infrastructure to be managed, not private businesses that run on town property.
- Proposed Lease Agreement structure (figure 2) is supported apart from the inclusion of "Harbour Walk" and therefore should read Town of Parry Sound *Big Sound Marina Operator

*Town Dock Operator (kiosk, washroom, bandshell)

- In the absence of the ability to collect levy on federal or municipally owned properties, the DBA Board is requesting consultation before next lease agreement is solidified to ensure fair representation of current tax paying businesses and potential future businesses
- Suggest - Town of Parry Sound rents out the kiosk inclusive of the washrooms and bandshell
- Suggest - Town could choose to rent out the property lining the town dock and should be treated as other town leased property (market square, BOCC, Stockey etc). This makes it fair to the businesses paying property taxes and levy year-round.
- Ensure contracts promote a collaborative relationship with BSM Operator & Town Dock operator so all decisions are in the best interest of the public and rate payers
- Suggest linking Town Dock to Big Sound via fitness trail extension past MNR property
- Lease agreement must have public interest and public access forefront
- Lease agreement to set boundaries to provide best public experience, not competing businesses side by side.
- BSM should not be sold
- Suggest zoning bylaws to stipulate a maximum number of transient docks at all times to eliminate loophole of allowable rentals back-to-back, consecutive weeks
- Return dockage to the Town Dock. Per TOP Strategic Plan, “to enhance the experience of visiting the downtown”. Suggest timed boat parking; these could be managed through by-law as with all other parking in the downtown
- Current shoppers’ docks remain – restructure allowable usage to compliment Town Dock boat parking and BSM docking
- Suggest not allowing “harbour shops” to return past current 2025 lease agreement. The only returning occupant is the current lease holder with boat tours. Interest in this trial appears to be declining with only 3 occupied to date and 1 owned by the Town for information