

Date: June 29, 2020

Report To: Planning and Development Executive Committee

From: Cody Vangel, Chief Building Official & Municipal Planner

Re: Fort Frances/Aazhogan Renewal Planning Committee – Draft Terms of Reference

On May 27, 2020 members of the Town of Fort Frances administration along with our land use planning and economic development consultants met with Riversedge Developments Inc. (2670568 Ontario Ltd.) and Rainy River First Nations, together in joint venture as Aazhogan Renewal, to discuss land use planning policies and mechanisms associated with the potential redevelopment of the Fort Frances mill properties. In this meeting it was discussed that in order to facilitate the implementation of various policies and mechanisms, that the Town apply for funding opportunities to prepare a study of the lands similar to that of the Shevlin Woodyard and Gateway to Market Square. In support of the study it was also discussed that a joint planning committee be formed known as the “Fort Frances / Aazhogan Renewal Planning Committee”. The draft terms of reference behind this committee are attached.

Rainy River Future Development Corporation (RRFDC) is preparing to submit two funding applications to complete a Land Use and Economic Development Feasibility Study for the associated mill properties. These applications will not be submitted without the support from Mayor & Council on the proposed Committee and terms of reference.

The intent of this committee and study will be to engage a consultant to craft location specific land use planning policies, identify economic development opportunities and to provide recommendations that will be used to amend the Town of Fort Frances Official Plan and Zoning By-Law to assist in the redevelopment of the subject lands. The outcome of these amendments will assist to mitigate delays and reduce turnaround times on planning applications associated with the subject lands and to promote redevelopment of the lands for a wide range of uses.

The draft terms of reference for the committee have been reviewed by associated administration members, RRFDC representative, and the Town’s retained planning consultant with comments provided for review. At this time, it is recommended by administration that Mayor and Council support administration to:

1. Form the Fort Frances / Aazhogan Renewal Planning Committee as per the mutually agreed upon terms of reference
2. Apply for Federal and Provincial funding for the land use and economic development study and that if funding is approved Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the funding agreements for a land use/economic development feasibility

Respectfully submitted



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Chief Building Official & Municipal Planner