



THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA **PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA**

Saturday, June 17th, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Moment of Silence

Let us take a moment of silent reflection to contemplate in our own way the responsibility we have to collectively use our skills and experience to ensure the mutual long-term benefit of our Municipality and those we represent.

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

As we gather this morning (afternoon), I would like to acknowledge on behalf of Council and our community that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Algonquin People. We would like to thank the Algonquin people and express our respect and support for their rich history, and we are extremely grateful for their many and continued displays of friendship. We also thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years."

3. Roll Call

4. Recital of the Municipal Mission and Vision Statements

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

6. Introduction and Explanation of Protocol – Mayor Grills

Welcome! Today's public meeting is an opportunity for you, the members of the Head, Clara and Maria community to express your opinions, ask questions and for your elected representatives to get a sense of what you feel are important goals for the next four years. No decisions of council will be made today. All comments will be made through the Chair. If you wish to speak, please come to the microphone, state your name and your comment or question. Comments will extend to no more than 10 minutes per speaker (as stated in our Procedure By-Law).

I would like to refer to three very important statements about effective Municipal Government from the Municipality's "Moving Forward" document.

These statements will be the guide for our discussions today.

- *Healthy, strong and vital communities work as a "team" toward a common vision for the future. They have developed community plans and implementation strategies.*
- *The public expresses their opinion in an open public forum. Everyone is treated with respect and has an opportunity to express their opinion without fear of being ostracized, criticized or humiliated. People do not openly attack one another.*
- *The public is seen as a valuable resource with a wide array of skills, experiences and opinions. They are consulted often, including those individuals who may have opposing views. Opposing views are sought to ensure that all points have been considered in the decision-making process on potentially contentious issues.*

7. Review of the Draft Strategic Plan Document

8. Open Session for Comments on 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

9. Confirmation of Proceedings By-law

10. Adjournment

Note* Alternate formats and communication supports are available on request.

HCM Mission: At your service; working effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community.

HCM Vision: Providing a healthy, connected, and sustainable community teeming with possibilities for our citizens now and into the future.

**United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria
2022-2026 Strategic Plan**

HCM Vision: Providing a healthy, connected, and sustainable community teeming with possibilities for our citizens now and into the future.

HCM Mission: At your service; working effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community.

SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis is a strategic planning technique used to identify an organization’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. It helps develop a better understanding of all factors involved in decision making.

<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small population – good volunteer base ● Strong staff – good working relationships ● Sense of community ● Simple lifestyle ● Cooperation within community ● Good roads, waste sites ● Safe, clean community ● Communications with ratepayers ● Pipeline assessment ● Natural environment ● Availability of communication tools – internet, Newsletters, social media ● Lower cost of housing/taxes ● Few restrictive local by-laws (noise, property standards, animal) ● Financial strength - Good reserves – no debt ● Good quality of life ● Recreational opportunities ● Updated infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small population – decreasing? ● Low tax base, fear of tax increases ● Succession planning – few staff, absences are noticed immediately ● Lack of Citizen Engagement - small pool of people for council, library board, etc. ● Ability to quickly react to changes in legislation & regulations ● Aging population ● Transportation ● Emergency response times ● Geography/size ● Lack of commercial assessment ● Connectivity ● Lack of services (fire) ● Lack of local employment opportunities ● Winter maintenance of Highway 17 ● Dated municipal policies

<u>Opportunities</u>	<u>Threats</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for growth – space • Recreation • Graphite mine? • Funding/grants • Tourism – river, snowmobiling • Retirees • Solar • Joint Council projects • County resources, assistance – Economic Development • Future use of rail line • Education on emergency management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts in PILs • Increasing legislation and regulations, reporting requirements • Lifespan of landfill • Aging and declining population • Transportation requirements for residents • Access to reliable internet • Limited number of employers

Public Input Request Results (to date):

Vision for HCM:

- Where others would consider living; either full time or with a camp/recreational building
- More young people living here
- Goals that promote development and welcome new residents to the area
- School buses running to Mattawa and Deep River
- Youth being employed in the municipality by existing and new businesses
- The northern playground of Renfrew County
- More docks on the river
- Continued open and transparent communication with all its residents via present means
- Similar to what it looks like now
- More residential development
- Proud and happy community with events and healthy volunteer base
- A place to enjoy the outdoors; inviting out of town public to enjoy what we have

What does HCM do well, and should continue:

- Sense of space, without interference with neighbours
- Continue to keep a place where people can live in the country, while following provincial rules and regulations
- Wouldn't change anything
- Freedom, space and wilderness; continue to promote area for what it is – space, freedom from city life and low cost of living
- Communication is good in newsletters
- Freedom to roam without permits
- Peace and quiet
- No more tax increases when the townships have healthy reserves
- Less intrusion on citizens and private lands compared to other municipalities
- Green space and trails that you don't have to pay to ride on your ATV
- Water access for recreational boating
- Low taxes
- Friendly people
- Friendly staff
- Good governance
- February lunch for public, kayak and SUP loans, dump facility

- Clean air, beautiful forests and waterways

Areas for improvement:

- Community services and recreational activities
- Continue to hold public information sessions with opportunity for public input whenever possible
- Having two landfills is an enormous waste of money and staffing; look at alternating dump sites on a monthly basis
- Fire Service/Department and Emergency Services
- A complete resource center to deal with questions regarding municipal, then county, and then Provincial legislation requirements
- Reach out with a "Can I Help?"; follow up with a phone call or a personal visit.
- Become more pro-active in helping develop private lands for residential occupation.
- Promoting awareness to seasonal visitors, including hunters, to respect privately marked property
- Roads – gravel
- Further boat launch improvements, improvements to Mackey Park, Town Hall beautification.
- Algonquin Trail
- Keep all municipal roads open and passable

Top Priorities:

- Activities for general public to meet others in HCM
- High-speed internet
- Assist development of property to generate tax revenue
- Review and find fire service solution
- Landfills, boat launches, land development
- Ask and follow up with "Can I Help?"
- Algonquin Trail infrastructure
- Bear proof garbage cans at the end of bush roads
- Municipally run seasonal food trucks at key locations clearly marked off the Highway; creates jobs and revenue to be directed to municipality
- Roads -summer and winter
- Asset Management
- Mackey Park improvements
- Kitchen and bar improvements
- More service to existing households
- Promote area as tourist attraction

Words to describe HCM to others:

- Peaceful, quiet and relatively inexpensive place to live
- Natural, quiet, accessible, friendly and caring
- Quiet, peaceful, wilderness, room to roam
- Freedom, low taxes, supportive
- Crown land, natural beauty, ATV playground
- Quiet, isolated, hidden gem
- Friendly, toy heaven, beautiful, best kept secret, cheap taxes
- Unknown area, people have no idea what its like here, quiet, god's country
- Pristine, nature abundance, quiet, friendly people

Assets:

- Geographic location between Algonquin Park and the Ottawa River

- Wilderness
- Easy and reliable access to Council members
- Reasonable property taxes
- Helpful and friendly administrative staff
- Land, Crown Land
- The people
- Natural beauty
- ATV playground
- Town Hall, Boat launches and parks
- Crown land trails
- Ottawa River

Liabilities:

- Provincial edits that are not realistic for small community
- Forced amalgamation with neighbouring communities
- Staff that do not reside in municipality
- Limited internet service
- No fire services
- The County and Province
- Small tax base from locals but large area to maintain
- Highway 17 and no infrastructure for emergency or police coverage
- Additional funding from present federal government
- People, location
- Landfill sites
- Possibility that new residents might bring city lifestyle and ideas
- Aging volunteers

Best way to inform residents and landowners:

- Newsletters – need to expand on “Can I Help” Section and report positive or negative outcomes with resource plan to follow.
- Information bulletins in mail boxes
- Email
- Social media
- North Renfrew Times
- More emphasis on electronic communication
- Website
- Text

What would you like to see in HCM:

- Increase in HCM supported access to Ottawa River where possible (e.g. Harvey Creek Road Boudreau Road or others in west end of township)
- Support for seniors living alone and needing assistance with day to day chores
- List of retired professional and others that would be available for consultation and resource information
- Local ATV club and not RCATV
- Expanding Mackey dock; mini marina where proposed food trucks can be based.
- Power and designated parking lot at Mackey Park
- Fire prevention and response