Meeting Date March 25, 2025

Subject Bonnechere Manor - Proposed Modular Housing

Development

Road to 2035 Strategy: The Town of Renfrew will promote a complete

community approach to growth, including supporting a mix of land uses with commercial, industrial, residential, and mixed-

use development.

Implement the Town's Attainable Housing Action Plan and work with the development community and County of Renfrew on opportunities to increase the affordability, supply, and range

of housing.

**Recommendation** That Committee of the Whole recommends that Renfrew Town

Council support the modular housing development at Bonnechere Manor proposed by the County of Renfrew, and authorize staff to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County regarding the apportionment of costs, and the waiver of applicable fees, charges and parkland dedication

requirements.

Originator Eric Withers, MCIP, RPP, Director – Development &

Environment, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**CAO Review** Note that other alternatives could be partial relief of fees as

well as the full reduction being recommended, if Council does

not want to consider an "all or nothing" approach.

Gloria Raybone, CPA, CA, Dipl.M.A. – Chief Administrative

Officer.

**Financial Comment** The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposes to waive

the typical fees associated with a building permit and site plan approval. The estimated minimum loss of revenue due to these waivers is \$58,000. However, the exact calculation for the 5%

parkland dedication fee is currently undetermined.

Charlene Jackson - Treasurer/Director of Finance and

Corporate Services.

Committee and Council Timing

To be considered on March 25 for final adoption by Council on

April 8.

## Background

The County of Renfrew is currently undertaking the planning and design of a 40-unit modular housing development at the Bonnechere Manor site in the Town of Renfrew. The purpose of the project is to provide affordable housing, however the exact composition of occupants is to be determined. It is anticipated that there will be some component of transitional housing for seniors not yet ready to enter a Long-Term Care facility, as well as affordable housing for support workers of the facility, however this is subject to ongoing review.

The development is anticipated to be phased, primarily contingent on funding availability. All servicing is anticipated to be constructed at the outset.

The layout of the proposed development is shown on the Site Plan in **Appendix "A"**. Note that the site plan shows 34 ground units, with one of the six-unit blocks being two storeys, yielding a total of 40 units.

The housing structures themselves will be modular/prefabricated units, however the exact construction type is to be determined. At this time, the County's plan is to get the project designed, and achieve Site Plan Approval, so as to be shovel-ready for any potential funding programs that become available.

The County has filed an application for Site Plan Approval with the Town, which is in the review and comment phase.

As part of the Town's assistance with the project, the County has requested that the Town waive any fees and charges that would normally be applicable to development, including planning application fees, building permit fees, and parkland dedication requirements. The County will bear any costs associated with the development (legal, peer review, etc.), and the Town will provide any in-kind support to the project as is appropriate and feasible.

Fees are summarized as follows:

Planning Application (Site Plan Approval): \$2,000

Building Permit Fees: \$1,400 per new apartment x 40 units = \$56,000

Parkland Dedication: 5% of appraised value of development land – value TBD

The waiver of fees would impact planning and building operating revenues, which partially offset expenses in those departments. The parkland dedication reserve would also not increase in accordance with the contributions that would otherwise be applicable.

Staff view this project as providing a housing alternative that does not currently exist in the Town, and is considered a creative approach to seniors housing, as well as helping to address housing affordability challenges locally.

The County will be providing a presentation on the project at the same Committee-of-the-Whole meeting (March 25).

## **Options**

The options available to the Town for this position are noted below:

- 1. Support the proposed modular housing project and requested assistance with fees and charges (Recommended).
- 2. Do not support the proposed modular housing project and/or the requested assistance with fees and charges.
- 3. Such other direction or options as Council may determine.

## **Impact of Options**

Various considerations for each of the three options are noted by option number below:

- This option is recommended, and will add the Town's support to the proposed development. This option supports Strategic Objective noted above, which provides that the Town will work with the development community and County of Renfrew on opportunities to increase the affordability, supply, and range of housing.
- 2. This option can be considered at Council's discretion, but is contrary to Strategic Objective noted above.
- 3. Council may consider any other direction that it sees fit.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration.





