

Part of the project is to capture the historical stories of the township and due to Covid-19 interviews with members of the public have stopped. The committee discussed other ways to reach out to the community.

Next Step: Staff will reach out to Prof. Fullerton to inquire if the interview questions could be finalized through a mail out.

Broadband Plan: Discussion; The Broadband Plan was part of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).

There are three key components on how rural municipalities can approach improving broadband challenges;

- needs assessment and gap analysis;
- involve a consultant that specializes in broadband in rural communities; and
- funding

Housing Strategy: Shortage of homes and long-term rental options in South Algonquin.

Next steps: As council moves forward to the new term of council, it is recommended that a housing strategy be a priority.

Planning tools to prepare for growth have already been put in place through the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law and now with the township being able to approve severances.

NEW BUSINESS:

Terms of Reference: Councillor Bongo presented an Economic Terms of Reference proposal. The proposal requests changing the current committee structure where it comprises of council members only to a standing committee where members of the public are part of the committee.

Moved by: D. Harper

Seconded by: J. Vermaire

To adjourn the Economic Development Meeting of March 17, 2021 at 11:47 a.m.

-Carried-

Councillor B. Bongo

Holly Hayes, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

Planning & Building Administrator,
Tracy Cannon, Recording Secretary