



705-382-2900
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Minutes: May 1, 2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Township of Perry Municipal Office.

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin (Vice- Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Norm Hofstetter, Sean Cotton, Jim Ronholm, Tom Bryson, Ashley Soundy (Secretary)

Regrets: Brad Kneller, Shawn Jackson, Cheryl Philip

Guest: David Gravelle, Shelly van den Heuvel, Courtney Metcalf, Sandy Zurbrigg

Called to order at 10:01 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2025-11 Moved by Jim Ronholm - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of March 6, 2025, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:**

a) Nicole Porter, Public Education Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Muskoka

Nicole provided Council with a brief introduction and presentation on the Dementia-Friendly Community initiative. She outlined the program's goal of raising awareness and developing shared educational resources to support dementia-friendly practices. While the initiative has national roots, it is being implemented locally, with a focus on adapting practices to meet the needs of individual municipalities, organizations, and communities at the provincial and regional levels. The core objective is to foster a community that is aware of dementia and knows how to interact appropriately and compassionately with those living with the condition.

Nicole shared information on the four main types of Alzheimer's, noting that there are over 100 types of dementia in total, and highlighted the growing number of Canadians affected by the disease along with common traits and symptoms of the disease. She also reviewed several medical conditions that can mimic dementia symptoms but are treatable and temporary. She emphasized that while there is currently no cure, early intervention and preventative measures are critical. The main focus is on setting individuals up for early prevention and care.

Part of the presentation promoted the website findingyourwayontario.ca, which provides resources such as identification kits and information on programs that support individuals with dementia, their care partners, families and first responders. The "Finding Your Way" program aims to raise awareness about the risk of individuals with dementia going missing, help communities prepare for such incidents, and support the safe and inclusive living of those with dementia. It was noted that approximately 60% of individuals with dementia-related memory issues become lost at some point.

Council inquired about the most effective locations for sharing resources with the public, such as libraries, doctors' offices, and municipal buildings. Discussion also included potential venues for hosting information sessions or seminars. It was noted that nearly 99% of the services offered by the Alzheimer Society of Muskoka are provided free of charge

4. RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2025-12 Moved by Norm Hofstetter – Seconded by Delynn Patterson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council agrees to reimburse the Village of Burk's Falls in the amount of \$271.20 for the annual Vistaprint website service fee. Carried

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Action Item Follow up – April:

S. Cotton provided an update on the investigation into conducting a full engineering study for the 150 Huston Street building. The CAO of Burk's Falls is currently obtaining quotes for the study and has received two to date. Once all quotes have been received and reviewed, they will be brought forward to the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre (AHHHC) Committee for consideration. The committee will then pass a resolution to present the information to their respective municipal councils for further review.

There was discussion on how best to present the quotes, with concern that offering multiple options may hinder progress—potentially resulting in underfunding or overfunding of certain aspects. As such, committee members were advised to present a single recommended option to their councils for consideration.

The discussion also included potential funding sources for the required study and repairs, including the use of Local Share funding. It was also noted that some municipalities passed resolutions which specifically separated Local Share contributions from "Almaguin-focused" contributions (the so-called 80-20 split), while others did not specify. Questions were raised regarding who should be responsible for decisions on Local Share allocations. It was agreed that this matter would be deferred to the upcoming Clerks/Treasurers meeting, as the AHHHC Committee's role is to provide recommendations, not make funding decisions. The committee agreed to await the results of the engineering study before determining next steps.

b) Open discussion regarding all potential Healthcare facilities and services in the Almaguin Highlands

R. Ward presented slides outlining the property recently purchased by Armour Township for the future development of a Fire Hall. The presentation included a preliminary layout and conceptual development plan for the site. In addition to the Fire Hall, there is interest in collaborating with a potential investor on the development of a health and wellness centre. This initiative is currently in the early planning stages.

The slides featured conceptual designs prepared by Greystone, showcasing possible future uses of the property to meet evolving community needs. These concepts are intended for discussion and feedback only. The proposed vision includes enhancing local services by adding community-based health and wellness programs that could complement existing healthcare services and align with the MAHC redevelopment plan.

Discussion followed regarding possible uses of the health and wellness facility and the types of services that could be introduced to benefit all area residents. It was noted that the Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative is actively seeking space to host senior-focused programs such as day programs that support aging in place. Other potential programs and services were also considered.

Council members raised questions about the implications for other municipalities, possible rental arrangements, ownership as a private facility, and projected timelines. Funding models, including potential municipal contributions for service delivery, were also discussed. Clarification was requested regarding how such funding arrangements might work. Suggestions were made to continue evaluating the project with a focus on efficiency and adaptability, recognizing that community needs will evolve over time.

c) Planning for Almaguin Highlands Health Care Summit with MAOHT

R. Ward provided an update on the proposed summit focused on exploring the future of healthcare facilities and identifying opportunities to integrate with MAHC – Satellite Services. The intent of the summit is to assess how existing facilities can be leveraged to support satellite service delivery.

Key questions discussed included the timing of the summit, who should be invited, how it should be facilitated, and how to ensure its effectiveness. R. Ward has reached out to the Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team (MAOHT) to request inclusion on their agenda and to highlight AHHC's interest in exploring options and receiving feedback.

Council engaged in a discussion regarding the need to focus the summit's agenda, define the vision and criteria for the initiative, and determine which municipalities should be involved. Council members agreed on September 2025 as a tentative target date for hosting the summit. It was also noted that there is already interest in the event.

At this stage, no concrete plans have been finalized, and efforts are currently focused on gathering information from healthcare providers. Further details will be shared as planning progresses.

d) Other Business

S. Zurbrigg stated that the Patient Family Caregiver Partners Advisory Committee (PFCPAC) is still looking for new members and encourages people to apply.

A. Soundy, Secretary for AHHC, will be stepping down effective the June 5 meeting. However, she has offered to assist with the July meeting if needed. Council is encouraged to share this opportunity with individuals who may be interested in taking on the role. A brief discussion took place regarding potential candidates to fill the position.

ACTION ITEM LIST:

- Council members are asked to share the opportunity with individuals who may be interested in taking on the role of Secretary for the AHHC.

6. ADJOURNMENT

2025-12 Moved by Delynn Patterson - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:00 pm to meet again on June 5, 2025 at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.