

Dutton Dunwich West Elgin Housing Stability Coalition

Shelter Establishment Plan

Dear Council,

This plan has been created with much thought to request consideration of land use at the north corner of Graham Street and Munroe Street for a Short-Term Emergency Housing Project.

Thank you,

Kelsey McConnell

Chair of the Short-Term Emergency Housing Task Team

Background

The Dutton Dunwich West Elgin Housing Stability Coalition (referred to as DDWEHSC moving forward), a community lead committee has been assessing homelessness and housing needs since late August 2020. This community committee was created when the West Elgin Community Health Centre (WECHC) identified a need in the community to support our at risk residents. A specific task team called the Short-Term Emergency Housing Task Team was established from the DDWEHSC with goals of identifying a solution to the increasing homelessness in Dutton Dunwich and West Elgin. It makes most sense to establish an emergency housing shelter to support folks experiencing homelessness into rapid re-housing and connection to community services, as modeled from other communities like Aylmer and St Thomas Inn Out of the Cold.

We are seeking municipal support in completing this goal to create a much-needed resource in the community for a Short-Term Emergency Shelter operating in the Winter months for short-term stays if people happen to experience homelessness. We have a volunteer pool that has been screened and involved in planning this initiative that would support operations. Systems Navigators at WECHC would support the clients getting connected to our community supports for wrap around services and rapid rehoming.

As proof, this document presented to you concludes that an Emergency Housing Shelter would serve the community best. We are looking for your support and assistance in completing this goal to provide those experiencing homelessness in the winter months the opportunity for a warm place to sleep.

Data taken from the Rural Homelessness Systems Navigator's caseload reflects 32 people on their caseload since March 2020. These are residents of Dutton Dunwich or West Elgin either experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. Many of these households could have accessed an Emergency Shelter during the winter months in the interim while the RHSN worked on their housing stability.

We welcome the opportunity with gratitude for consultation with Dutton Dunwich and West Elgin Councils and our members of the Ontario and Federal Government Jeff Yurek and Karen Vecchio MP.

Logistics

The location of the Short-Term Emergency Shelter was determined due to proximity to the West Elgin Community Health Centre (Referred to as 'WECHC' moving forward). Being so close to the WECHC this allows the community members that use the shelter to access other amenities to meet their basic needs (shower, laundry services and other wrap around services).

Image 1: Proximity to WECHC



Image 2: Shelter Layout



Image 3: On the ground view of Location



After visiting the site and viewing the conditions of the ground, a footing of cement pads or helical anchors may be required to make sure there is proper footing for the mobile office trailer and the use of those items would mean less remediation after the trailer has left. To which we can provide that clean up after the trailer has left, Remediation required will likely include, but not limited to fresh topsoil and grass seed (hydroseed if deemed a big enough area). Also while the land is in use, it will be regularly checked for garbage and waste from operations, as well as the area surrounding in general, if we are to take on the site we will (as to the best of our ability and our capacity) take care of the site.

Seeing as this is to be run during the winter this may affect snow removal for Munroe street and if a plan needs to be devised with roads then we are willing to have that meeting.

Also in taking on this land we will require a temporary zoning change in order to accommodate people sleeping there. I am in talks with the building inspector as well as the planner to accommodate both and streamline this process.

Heritage homes has been contacted and I will be presenting to them at their next meeting in August.

The trailer itself is a 12'x40' Mobile Office trailer. It will require some leveling and hydro for lights and heat.

The Portajohn, portable washroom, is a "Hybrid" model and made to be used in the winter as it is insulated

This is all the info I have at this time, more detailed plans are to follow but this is to help bring light and to educate on the setup and layout of the shelter itself. Engineered drawings will need to be drawn up and other safety measures. Those will be included on a later report.

Again, we look forward to working with everyone. If you required additional details please feel free to contact me at Email: DDWEemergencyhousing@gmail.com

With Gratitude,

Kelsey McConnell

Short-Term Emergency Task Team Chair