

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:30 PM
South Edwardsburgh Community Centre
24 Sutton Dr.
Johnstown Ontario

PRESENT: Councillor Chris Ward
Mayor Tory Deschamps
Deputy Mayor Stephen Dillabough
Councillor Joe Martelle
Councillor Waddy Smail

STAFF: Dave Grant, CAO
Rebecca Crich, Clerk
Sean Nicholson, Treasurer
Wendy VanKeulen, Community Development Coordinator
Candise Newcombe, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order – Chair, Chris Ward

Councillor Ward called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: S. Dillabough
Seconded by: J. Martelle

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest & the General Nature Thereof

- a. J. Martelle - Spencerville Business & Community Connections - Holly Howard & Kirsha Hutchcroft

Delegate is a direct family member of the Councillor.

4. Business Arising from Previous Committee Meeting Minutes (if any)

None.

5. Delegations and Presentations

a. RNJ Youth Services - Rachel Burns

Ms. Burns, the executive director of RNJ Youth Services, provided an overview of the organization noting a client age range of 8 - 17 years old. She highlighted the following services offered: early prevention, pre/post charge youth diversion, mental health support/diversion, educational programming, life skills, after-school programming and adult diversion services.

Ms. Burns noted a significant increase in demand for programming across the board, especially prevention programming in schools, however, there has not been an increase to the government-issued funding amounts in 17 years. Due to staff cuts last year, a staff of 5 was noted to be accommodating approximately 1700 youth across Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, highlighting the request for funding to support staff capacity and programming.

There was discussion regarding the following: the number of Edwardsburgh Cardinal youth using the programming, police contact referrals, the effects of the pandemic on program demand, statistics following participation in the programming, and the transitional process for youth over 17 still requiring assistance. Ms. Burns noted that 78% of the youth referred to services in 2023 no longer required services by the end of the year.

Committee thanked Ms. Burns for her presentation.

b. Spencerville Business & Community Connections - Holly Howard & Kirsha Hutchcroft

J. Martelle declared a conflict on this item. (Delegate is a direct family member of the Councillor.)

Councillor Martelle left the table and did not participate in the discussion.

Ms. Howard noted that Ms. Kirsha Hutchcroft would be presenting in replace of Ms. Sara Dove. Ms. Howard highlighted partnerships with local community groups and the intent to secure sponsorships for the planned events by the SBCC. She highlighted 5 main events including the membership drive and fundraiser, hoppin' spencerville, art explosion, spooky spencerville, and spencerwhoville.

Ms. Howard outlined the request for \$5000.00 for signage and event supply costs, plus in-kind support including road closure assistance and arena rental fee exemptions.

Members discussed the collaboration opportunities with other local community groups to offset costs and the benefits of a volunteer database for all local groups to access.

Committee thanked Ms. Howard and Ms. Hutchcroft for their presentation.

c. Rural FASD Support Network - Rob More

Mr. Rob More and Mr. Mark DeRose provided an overview of the program's history and objectives, highlighting 230 families and 600 people supported in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. He highlighted that the Ontario Trillium Foundation recognized the FASD Support Network as the number 1 scaled model in addition to providing the grant. The funding received from the grant was noted to support wage costs, highlighting that all other funding received is allocated directly to the families supported by the program.

Mr. More outlined the statistics of people affected by this syndrome, diagnostic hurdles, and that 85% of the 600 people in the program are with adoptive families. The red shoe was noted to be the universal symbol of FASD awareness. Mr More highlighted an upcoming "Red Shoe Run" event to support fundraising efforts for the FASD Support Network to be held at Montague Public School on May 11, 2024. In addition to the run, he noted that various family activities will be available for the public to enjoy. Mr. More noted that while the initial Red Shoe Run event will be held in Smiths Falls, the intent is to run subsequent events at differing locations including Edwardsburgh Cardinal with a goal of 4 events annually.

The request for \$5000.00 was noted as a one-time request that would support start-up costs including website design, marketing, and signage.

There was discussion regarding details for the Red Shoe Run event, the intent to host the second run in Edwardsburgh Cardinal and the various activities available at the May 11th event.

Committee thanked Mr. More for his presentation.

6. Action/Information/Discussion Items

a. Live: Land Use Planning

1. Notice of Decision for OPA2

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and discussed the following: the 20-day appeal period, the effective date of the decision should no appeals be received and the next steps for increasing the permitted number of severances per lot from 2 to 4. It was noted that previous discussions highlighted the required rationale to support the proposed intensification efforts by demonstrating a need for additional lots in the Township. Currently, it was noted that the Township has over 500 vacant lots that are buildable, not including the lots dedicated to planned subdivisions.

2. Information: Additional Residential Units Information Sessions

Committee was provided with an overview of the report noting 42 attendees registered for the session scheduled for March 5 at 5:30 p.m. There was a brief discussion regarding the background of the anticipated attendees, which was noted to be a range of homeowners, developers and contractors.

b. Work: Economic Development

1. Information: Prescott Spring Home and Trade Show

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and discussed mechanisms for generating feedback on the return on investment of the Township attending the home and trade show for local businesses. It was noted that the feedback received to date was positive but limited.

2. Digital Service Squad Funding

Committee was provided with a summary of the report which highlighted the end of provincial funding for the program. There was discussion regarding short-term funding of the program, possible alternate funding sources, collaborating and cost-sharing with neighbouring municipalities, and the program's success rate to date.

Members noted their support of the program for the short-term to allow an opportunity to explore alternate funding sources and encourage creative options to continue the programming to the benefit of local businesses.

Moved by: T. Deschamps

Seconded by: J. Martelle

That Committee recommend that Council support the Town of Prescott's resolution for the continuation of funding for the Digital Service Squad program through Digital Main Street; and authorize an upset contribution limit of \$5,100 to fund a 3-month extension of the Digital Service Squad program while staff work with the Town of Prescott and Augusta Township to find solutions to continue this support for our local businesses.

Carried

c. Play: Recreation

None.

d. Information: Foodcycler 2nd Pilot Program

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and discussed general feedback from the program, product warranty, market cost versus

subsidized unit cost, and the value of additional programming. It was noted that this type of programming is valuable to rural municipalities where costs for composting services are not fiscally viable, however, additional programming is not deemed beneficial at this time.

e. Strategic Plan - Community Engagement Phase

The committee was provided with a summary of the report outlining April 2, from 3:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. as the tentative date. It was noted that the intent is to host focus groups from 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m., and the public open house from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

7. Inquiries/Notices of Motion

Deputy Mayor Dillabough inquired about information on the proposed transition for the Blue Box program. It was noted that additional information would be provided at the March 11 Administration and Operations meeting.

8. Question Period

None.

9. Closed Session

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: J. Martelle

Seconded by: S. Dillabough

That Committee does now adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Deputy Clerk