

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 6:30 PM
Corporation of The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal
Council Chambers, Spencerville Ontario

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

STAFF: Sean Nicholson, CAO
Dave Grant, Director of Operations/Deputy CAO
Wendy VanKeulen, Community Development Coordinator
Candise Newcombe, Deputy Clerk
Mary Tessier, Consultant

1. Call to Order – Chair, Chris Ward

Councillor Ward called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: J. Martelle

Seconded by: T. Deschamps

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

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

None.

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

None.

5. Delegations and Presentations

None.

6. Action/Information/Discussion Items

a. Live: Land Use Planning

1. Modernizing Notice Requirements for Planning Matters

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and discussed the following: expenditure amounts allocated to newsprint, services encompassed in the costs, and the benefits of utilizing all methods of communication to reach constituents due to the varying ages in the populace of the Township.

Members inquired about alternate more cost-efficient methods of communication not yet considered or utilized by the Township noting that the applicant bears all costs associated with the application and any savings to the applicant would be beneficial.

Members sought clarity regarding the intent to eliminate the newsprint option and its implications for the Planning Act legislation due to the viability of local newspapers in and around the Township. It was noted that delays have been experienced in the notice requirement of the Planning Act due to the lead time required for the newspapers. There was discussion regarding implementing the website as the primary notification method while continuing to circulate notices through newspapers as an added measure of ensuring transparency.

Moved by: J. Martelle

Seconded by: T. Deschamps

That Committee endorse the modernization of our notice to the public with respect to Planning matters, which will generally include mailing notices and publishing on the township's website, as required to meet or exceed regulations made under the Planning Act.

Defeated

2. Streamlining Severance Recommendations

Committee was provided with a summary of the report noting that Committee would still have the option to refer an application to Council and discuss the additional benefits of the streamlined process.

Moved by: S. Dillabough

Seconded by: J. Martelle

That Committee recommend that Council delegate authority to the Committee of the Whole – Community Development to make comments to the Counties on severance applications.

3. Discussion: Housing Accelerator Fund 2 Application

Committee was provided with a detailed overview of the report identifying the reasoning for each of the five selected initiatives. There was discussion regarding the following: benefits to developers in modernizing the process, using Federally pre-approved housing designs versus procuring independent architectural designs in a catalogue of designs, and how the availability of architectural drawings has helped in the development of previous subdivision developments.

There was a consensus of Committee to proceed with the proposed application.

b. Work: Economic Development

1. Application for Community Improvement Program Funding, 623 County Rd 2 (Rustic Spoon)

Background was provided on the item deferred from the June Community Development meeting due to the inability to meet general eligibility requirements and Committee discussed the following: support of local vendors, compliance with eligibility requirements, setting precedent if granting an exception to a retroactive application, and the possible disconnect in communicating the availability of community funding programs.

Members highlighted the positive contribution the applicant has made to the community, and noted the opportunity to access funding for future improvement projects. A motion to defer the item to the September meeting of Council to allow full discussion and vote by all members was suggested.

Moved by: T. Deschamps

Seconded by: J. Martelle

That Committee defer the item to the September 30th Regular Council meeting for full discussion and vote.

Carried

Committee noted that a fulsome discussion with all members of Council is best practice when considering superseding policy requirements.

c. Play: Recreation

None.

d. Information: Canal Bank Cleanup - Bridge Street Update

Committee was informed of delayed progress with the Cardinal Canal bank cleanup efforts noting the completion of brush removal, clearing of the pedestal area and the proposed installation of the stone bench.

Members noted concern with the deviance of the initial planned clean-up efforts, estimated costs for the proposed work, and delays in progress due to coordinating efforts with grant opportunities and South Grenville's Real World Learning program. It was noted that delays resulted from uncooperative weather conditions and scheduling conflicts. It was noted that all grant opportunities that align with the proposed clean-up efforts of the area were being explored. Members recommended adding the project as a budget line item during the upcoming 2025 budget discussions.

e. Discussion: Communications Committee

Committee was provided with an overview of the report and noted their support of an ad-hoc communication committee and the proposed terms of reference.

Moved by: T. Deschamps

Seconded by: S. Dillabough

That Committee recommend that Council approve the creation of the Ad Hoc Communications Committee and approve the Terms of Reference for Committee as written.

Carried

7. Inquiries/Notices of Motion

Deputy Mayor Dillabough requested a Council motion for an exemption to the Township's alcohol policy for an upcoming community event in Johnstown on September 21.

Deputy Mayor Dillabough inquired about a timeline for a report on requirements for the ownership of chickens in settlement areas.

Deputy Mayor Dillabough commended the Cardinal Festival Committee on their efforts with the Labour Day events and the Township of Augusta on a well-hosted Labour Day parade.

Mayor Deschamps put forth a notice of motion to include a discussion item on the Support of Township Schools to be added to the September Committee of the Whole - Administration and Operations meeting.

Mayor Deschamps commended Township staff on their contributions to the Cardinal Labour Day events, extending thanks to all organizers and volunteers who contributed to the success of the event and continue to work in making the Township a great place to live.

8. Question Period

The following questions/comments were raised:

- Inquired about the number of donated park benches required by the Township.

9. Closed Session

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by: S. Dillabough

Seconded by: J. Martelle

That Committee does now adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Deputy Clerk