

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
MINUTES
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
May 19th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor Tanya Henry, Mayor Doug Malanka, Laurie King, Matthijs van der Veen, Michele Andrews, Mark Primeau,

REGRETS

Jonas Cole, Bill Spencer

1. **Call to Order**

Councillor Tanya Henry called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Agenda Approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes approved for the April 14, 2021 meeting.

4. **Disclosure of Interest**

5. **Other Business**

5.1 Yearly Event Calendar

Decided:

- The question: which events can unify our community of communities? Stays on the agenda.

5.2 Mental Health: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Ideas:

- The Committee was informed that there will be a report presented Friday. An update will follow at the next CDC meeting. **No action required now.**

Decided:

- No new actions.

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5.3 Pitch In Day - April 24 - Adopt a Road Program

Ideas:

- Pitch-In is postponed due to the current COVID situation (Provincial Stay at home order)
- Will we eventually go forward organizing Pitch-In? The roadside grass starts to be high and also the presence of Wild Parsnip should be taken in consideration.

Decided:

- The decision to go forward or cancel this year Pitch-In depends on when it is possible to go forward (COVID) and the situation the roadsides are in at that time.

5.4 Indigenous territorial acknowledgement

Ideas:

- The subject was brought to the last meeting by a committee member.
- The acknowledgement should be built on a relationship between Township and indigenous people in the Township. Initiatives from both sides are taken in the past, but due to COVID it has not come to a meeting recently.

Decided:

- Once COVID restrictions are allowing again to reach out and meet, the relationship building initiative should be restarted.
- Staff will draft an 'welcome text' (acknowledgement)

5.5 Ash trees / replanting program

Ideas:

- Staff was approached by several residents, one particular that wrote a letter to Federal MP Mr. Michael Barret and to our local MPP Mr. Steve Clark to address the problem and ask for help.
- Staff presented two possible projects that Township can run to support residents that are dealing with the Emerald Ash Borer/ dying ash trees on their property:
 1. Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) runs a program where residents can have financial support for tree removal and replanting. Township can run this program through CWF, which coordinates and where Township financially supports expenses up to a set budget.
 2. '2 Billion Trees' run by the Federal government. Township can participate in this reforestation/replanting program. This project also is based on a shared cost base, where Township should commit to a budget.

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Decided:

- Township takes care of Township properties and has an annual budget for tree management. Township has trained staff take care of the trees or hires arborist if a situation requires their expertise.
- Township works together with CWF on the annual 'Tree give away program'. This is a program that Township will continue to support and that residents are encouraged to participate in.

5.6 Community gardens

Staff met volunteers working on a garden adjacent to one of the community halls.

Ideas:

- The time and effort these volunteers invest in the garden and the visual result of it to all the community is great. The idea is to facilitate these volunteers with additional funds to make they can get what they need and their invested time and effort will even show more in the final result.
- Expand this initiative all over Township, to start with the recreation hall areas and eventually other gardens.
- Try to find the 'green thumbs' / horticultural fanatics that would love to participate in an initiative like this.
- Next to 'flower gardens' there is also the opportunity of growing food. Can these two be combined, in the same or different locations? In line with initiative like 'grow a row'?

Decided:

- Staff will be in touch with the volunteers of the Roebuck hall and speak about the possibilities /wishes.
- Staff will be in touch with recreation committees to see if they support the idea and know people that would like to participate or how to find them.
- Staff will investigate which properties are owned by the Township, County or Province, to see which one(s) are available to and that might fit the purpose of a community garden.

5.7 Questions/Ideas?

Ideas:

- Staff presented the June pride month joint celebration with the Town of Prescott as an idea.
- Question: should Township go forward with this and if so, in what form?

Decided:

- Township will participate in a joint celebration with the Town of Prescott.
- Its to short of a notice to organize something as a Township ourselves.
- Next year might be the year to make the next step and organize our own ceremonial celebration, including raising the Pride flag.

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- 6. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 at 2:00pm**
- 7. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.