

Minutes: Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee



MEETING DATE: May 16, 2012

MEETING TIME: 6:30 pm to 8:30pm

LOCATION: Town Hall (Engineering Meeting Room)

A. Call to Order

Present: John Ardiel, Brian Goodings, Jay Kivell, Alex Maxwell, Pat McGirr

Regrets: Norman Ragetlie, Sean Brady, Brian McAteer, Mike Hammond, Bill Remus

A.1 Previous Approval of Minutes

Brian Goodings chaired the meeting. Meeting commenced at 6:35.

Brian asked the committee to review the minutes. Jay Kivell and Alex Maxwell motioned to approve the minutes; the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Brian asked if there are any updates based on the minutes. Alex indicated that spawning beds projects has been approved at four locations.

John Ardiel noted that the Slabtown Bridge came in under budget and that there may be an opportunity to earmark the savings towards the 10th Line Bridge. Pat McGirr said that the bridge closure causes an accessibility issue.

John moved a motion:

‘That Council give due consideration to using any possible savings from the Slabtown bridge replacement project towards the much needed replacement of the 10th line bridge’. Jay seconded the motion and it was carried by the Committee.

Action Item / Follow-Up: None

B. New and Unfinished Business

B.1 Five-Minute Review

John indicated that there are a number of creeks, Indian Brook being an example, that have log jams and blockages that are compromising the migration of fish up these creeks. John said that unfortunately there is no funding to help clear up the stream and that the Ministry is generally focused on enforcement not habitat restoration. John added that the limited rain this spring has exacerbated the problem.

Jay suggested that the Committee writes to the Georgian Triangle Anglers Association (GTAA) to inform them of the issue and potentially help address the problem. Jay added

that he could draft the letter. Adam said he would circulate it to the Committee for comment before sending it to the GTAA.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Draft letter for circulation to the GTAA (Jay).

B.2 Speaker Forum Update

Brian said that the speaker forum program is a great idea but has seemed to stall. Brian said that Norman was taking the lead, but he has now stepped back from the project. Brian asked the Committee if they should continue to pursue the initiative.

John said that the speaker forum is a good idea, but it could be moved until the fall.

Brian said that a planning group should be struck in to keep the program moving. Jay indicated he is willing to work on it.

Pat said that money has already been paid for the space and that it could be reallocated, but the Committee should pick a date. The Committee selected November 17th or 10th as potential dates for event.

Brian said that the forum is a good event to promote collaboration among the different organizations in the region.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Jay to take up leadership on discussion forum planning.

B.3 Official Plan Check-In

Adam noted that the previous minutes identified some questions regarding the Official Plan process. Adam said that he discussed the process with Cindy and reviewed the steps with the Committee. Adam said that after a draft of the Official Plan is released comments from the Committee are to be circulated to Cindy Welsh and the consultant, following that, the comments will be compiled with all of the others and sent to the Official Plan Review Steering Committee. Adam continued that Council would then review the comments and make changes to the Official Plan policies as they feel fit.

John Ardiel asked if the Committee could have a summary or if Cindy could present to the Committee. Adam said that Cindy would be willing to meet with the Committee to discuss the draft.

Alex said that the wording in the document can be difficult to work through. Brian asked if Cindy could provide highlights to the Committee. Adam said that Cindy will be able to meet with the Committee but will follow-up with Cindy.

Brian asked when the draft will be circulated. Adam responded that it is likely in the fall.

Jay said that the timing can be tight as the Committee meets only once a month. Adam said the he would work out the timeframe and report back to the Committee.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Identify the Official Plan review timeframe and report back to Committee.

B.4 Council Report Review

Adam said that the reports to Council must be submitted through Staff and that he had originally informed the Committee that the report would be coming from the chairs. Adam said that he filled out other sections of the report, Sections C and D, and that he wanted to Committee to be aware of the changes.

Brian asked Adam what he thought of the report. Adam responded that it is a good idea to provide a report to Council to inform them about what the Committee is doing, especially with respect to the discussion forum. Adam added that the minutes are circulated to Council but reports stand out more, especially if they require action or a vote by Council, which the report requires to formally change the name of the Committee. Brian added that the report was well written.

Action Item / Follow-Up: None.

B.5 Other Items

Brian raised the idea previously discuss by the Committee regarding an interpretive/educational area by Clendenan Dam. Brian said that there is still an opportunity for this idea. Pat added that this type of outdoor interpretative centre is needed so that kids can stay in the area and that the Committee should keep it on the radar.

Brian added that the key is to promote interest in the river. John said that it should be kept as an agenda item to move the idea forward. Jay said that there are a number of local groups that could be interested in this idea, including the Lions Club, the Rotary, Blue Mountain Watershed Trust and so on. Alex added that there are many players that could get on board and help with funding including the Town, County, Conservation Authorities, TD Bank green fund and so on.

C . Correspondence

C.1 Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Letter

Brian asked the Committee if it was beneficial to circulate the letter. Pat said it was educational.

Adam said that these types of letter get flagged for review by the Committee and that is why it was included in the meeting package.

Brian said that if the material is relevant, then it should be included in the meeting package, but otherwise a summary list would work fine.

D . Next Meeting Date

Wednesday June 13, 2012. 6:30 – 8:30 Town Hall

E. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.