

Minutes: Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee



MEETING DATE: November 17, 2011

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

LOCATION: Town Hall (Engineering Meeting Room)

A. Call to Order

Present: Mike Hammond, Norman Ragetlie, Brian McAteer, Alex Maxwell, Bill Remus

Regrets: John Ardiel, Sean Brady, Pat McGirr, Brian Goodings, Jay Kivell

A.1 Previous Approval of Minutes (with revision)

- Mike Hammond, Alex Maxwell

B. New and Unfinished Business

B.1 Five-Minute Review

- Brian noted that pool of speckled trout were behind his placed and were trapped due to a fallen tree. Alex commented that some researchers use the presence of speckled trout as an indicator of a healthy watercourse.

- Norman said that he attended a meeting of the Ontario Network on Ecosystem Services. This group promotes the notion that property owners are compensated for ecological services of their land. The meeting also included a discussion of the Grand River Conservation Authority and their focus on upstream system of pollution control, paying farmers to implement best practices as opposed to building larger infrastructure.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to investigate the cost of membership into the Ontario Network on Ecosystem Services and report back to committee.

B.2 Previous Meeting Action Items

- **Committee name**

- Adam discussed the committee's name with Shawn Everitt and reported that during the initiation of the committee there was a push to get the group up a running and the current name was used.

- Brian asked the committee if it should consider all watersheds within The Blue Mountains as part of the mandate.

- Norman noted that being an advisory committee, the name may influence council's perspective.

- The committee forwarded the following Motion:

“The committee name be changed to Town of The Blue Mountains Watersheds Advisory Committee”

- Moved by: Bill Remus

- Seconded by: Alex Maxwell

- **Review Mission Statement**

- Adam indicated that the committee wished to review the mission statement generated from the previous meeting, to approve.

- Norman said that other considerations, such as invasive species, riparian habitat health, may not be captured within that mission statement.

- Brian indicated that the statement is very broad and would likely capture any positive activities such as riparian habitat revitalization.

- Mike added that the statement could refer to watershed to be more encompassing.

- The committee then forwarded the following Motion:

“The vision statement will read ‘Highest watershed quality as possible’ ”

- Moved by: Alex Maxwell

- Seconded by: Norman Regatlie

- **Map update**

- Adam noted that he is working with staff to get adequate mapping for the group.

- Brian M recommended investigating mapping generated using Google Pro.

- Adam said he would follow-up and report back to the committee

- Brian said that the committee should discuss its mandate regarding issues of concern outside of The Blue Mountains boundary. Should the committee discuss these?

- Norman said that any issues that impacts the local watershed should be kept within the group’s purview, however, the group should focus on internal issues first.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam will compile motions for eventual submission to Council (in a Staff report) and compile mapping for the group’s next meeting.

B.3 Information Letter Request / Agency

- Adam reviewed the letter and agency list with the committee.

- The committee recommended adding a deadline date to the letter and including a request for presentation (if needed).

- Alex asked to have the local natives included in the distribution listing.

Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to circulate letters.

B.4 Committee Expansion

- Alex noted that water is a big issue and that more knowledge brought to the table could benefit the committee.
- Brian M commented that people can act as resources, but do not necessarily have to be a part of the committee. Smaller committees are more manageable.
- Norman noted that each committee member was appointed by Council, and further appointments would be made by Council.
- Alex said that inviting participants to participate is great but it might not be enough time for them to get properly involved.
- Bill noted that at this time the committee does not need to expand, it needs to get something done first.

Action Item / Follow-Up: None.

B.5 Correspondence

- Adam reviewed the letter from the Lions Club.
- Norman said that the committee should endorse the Lions Club initiative.
- The committee then forwarded the following Motion:

“The committee supports the initiative and wishes to be kept informed of plans and progress”

- Moved by: Alex Maxwell

- Seconded by: Norman Regatlie

Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to move forward the motion in the next staff report.

B.6 Other Items

Ladies of the Lake

- Norman said that he met Annabel Slaight from the group Ladies of the Lake, an organization that promotes a healthy Lake Simcoe. He inquired about inviting Annabel to speak to the committee and/or the public and to discuss the best way to go about it.
- Brian M asked the committee how it should go about scheduling the guest speakers.
- Norman said scheduling could be delegated.
- Brian said that Jay has previously mentioned helping with the scheduling, maybe Norman and Jay could work together. Brian noted a concern about prioritizing, how should to group determine when and who to speak with?

- Adam mentioned that the letter responses may direct the prioritizing of scheduling.

Haines Dam Removal

- the committee requested to be circulated on Clendenan Dam removal engineering report

Action Item / Follow-Up: Adam to contact Library regarding use for public speakers. Notify Jay regarding speaker recruitment and circulate Haines Dam removal engineering report (when available).

C . Next Meeting Date

Tuesday January 17th, 2011. 6:30 – 8:30 Town Hall

D. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.