



Carleton Place Urban Forest/River Corridor Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting January 22, 2025

7:00 p.m. (Library)

Next Regular Monthly Meeting:

February 26, 2025, 7pm (Library)

Attendance:

Janet McGinnis (Chair), Joanne Woodhouse, Jim McCready, Daniel Brumer, Kelly Vieira, Councillor Mark Hinton, Doreen Donald

Regrets: Dale Moulton

Guest: Irene Tobis

1. Welcome/opening remarks (declarations of conflict of interest)
 - no conflicts of interest declared
2. Approval of the Agenda
 - Moved by: Jim McCready
 - “That the agenda be approved”
 - Seconded by: Mark Hinton
 - CARRIED
3. Approval of Minutes: Nov. 27 meeting
 - Moved by: Jim McCready
 - “That the minutes be approved”
 - Seconded by: Mark Hinton
 - CARRIED
4. Business Arising Nov. 27 meeting-
Letter of support for Edible Tree Program
 - Janet read the letter to the committee
 - The letter was sent to the Town and the application was submitted on time
 - We are expecting to hear back ~March from Tree Canada
 - Tree Canada will make selections, the sponsors provide input and make a final decision

September meeting- Thursday, Sept. 11 @ 7:00pm

- The meeting will take place in the Library
- Sept. 11 was the only available day ahead of Forest Week
- National Forest Week will be September 21 – 27 (Tree Day on Sept. 24th)

River information on website?

- Doreen will put some thought into this
- There is a small blurb already but there could be more
- We do have money set aside for Earthfest
- \$3,000 is the amount allocated to each committee each year and it does not carry over

MVCA-Matt Craig

- We had previously raised concerns about the passing of Bill 23 which limited the conservation authority's (CA) controls
- Janet spoke with Matt at MVCA – he said the Bill removed the Natural Heritage status which relates to wetland, water corridors and more
- Natural Heritage has been downloaded to municipalities
 - The Town will have to determine how they want to deal with Natural Heritage. If they bring in consultants, they won't have the historical knowledge that the committee members have
 - Committee wants to support the municipality with this
 - Wetland south of Highway 7 will be a challenge
- The County has a Natural Heritage Plan that establishes corridors
- The County just passed a \$50K allocation to build a Terms of Reference and begin engaging with landowners and Conservation Authorities to get the conversation started
- We need to designate the natural assets as an asset
- Eventually this work will move towards building natural corridors in the County
- The Tree Inventory is an important piece because it demonstrates the asset
- Doreen can keep us connected to the County
- Our committee will have to comment on the 30m setback where there is a natural setting
- The MVCA will comment on anything that is a hazard (flooding, buffering on shoreline)
- Important to think about softening shorelines

Committee Vacancy-Stacey Blair

- Janet contacted Stacey Blair about the vacancy and coincidentally shortly after that, Irene contacted Janet
- Irene and Daniel work together in the Horticultural Society

5. Correspondence:

450 McNeely Ave

- This is the location of the Smart Centre/Walmart
- They are looking at changing the zoning to allow greater flexibility in options for tenants
- This would be part of Phase II of the development

Environment Committee minutes

- Janet forwarded to the committee earlier in January

6. Tree Inventory-Dale Moulton

- Dale is not here to speak to it
- He has not found a list of volunteers yet
- We have the inventory of t-shirt sizes and equipment and all the extra notification cards
- A few items remain in Mark's storage unit
- Dale is transitioning to a public domain software to store the GPS data for the trees
- The Town's system currently does not give us access
- Committee members did some work at the end of October and Mississippi Manor is almost completed
- Top priority this year is to finish up Mississippi Manor when the inventory starts up again
- When to start this year and what to accomplish?

- General consensus that we could start earlier, and Grant Street could be done before the construction happens
- Could start as early as May – plan to tentatively start the last week of May (~26th)
- If we start ahead of summer, we may get students
- Horticultural Plant Sale May 25th - could recruit there as well as Earthfest
- For choosing an area – what are we looking for? Jim would like mature trees to better determine the Town's cover. Shooting for 30% tree cover.
- Do we have access to Jessica's e-mail for the tree inventory
 - Joanne to reach out to Jessica

7. Development Permit By/law review

- Last we heard, it was with the consultants, they are going to have an open house, and we would have access to a draft
- Open house first to provide information and solicit input from the public
- Gannaque is the only other municipality with a Development Permit Bylaw (replaces zoning bylaw) – could review this as it is more comprehensive than Carleton Place's
- Daniel distributed his comments to the committee
- Tree Preservation Plan policy paper should be incorporated into the revised Development Permit
- Mark last heard that Tyler is hoping to have the open house in the spring
- Jim will distribute the Tree Preservation Plan to the committee members so that we know what the Town is working with now

8. Earthfest-Saturday May 3

- Bigger and better than last year
- Same day as the Indigenous Fair at the Zion Memorial Church – Barb Purdy is looking at potentially integrating the Indigenous Fair and Earthfest
- Committee will participate again – we had talked about having information sheets or an additional tent for the river corridor piece beside the tree display
- Look for ideas for an item to handout – trees are always popular and we should order them again
- Usually about 150 trees in a flat so we could order one flat
- Potentially showing the tree planting webinar – could turn the PowerPoint into a video

9. Joint meeting with the Environment Committee - Thursday, February 6 at 7pm @ Arena

- Will be held at the Arena not the library
- Working on green development standards – incorporating LID, green roofs etc.

10. Other Business

Water Treatment Plant Trees

- Guy had indicated that they could not save the trees except for one
- Also removing trees at the sewage treatment plant
- Jim will visit the sewage treatment plant site when there is less equipment
- Change to the plans for the Sewage Treatment Plant will mean that the Haz. Waste depot no longer has to move which helps keep more trees
- Feb 8th Council meeting will provide more information on the change

- Drinking water treatment plant had trees removed and they will be replaced after construction

Homeowners Tree Planting Program

- Jim: same species of trees this year except no Burr Oak
- Smaller trees such as service berries have been more popular in recent years
- Potentially May 7th for the tree planting seminar
- Virtual seminar again this year
- Cheryl Ann will put something out in The Scoop ~beginning of April

Additional Discussion

- Should we contribute to the Env. Committee green building guidance (i.e. landscape plans)?
- We tend to get robotic looking landscape designs – is there anything we could do to improve that ie. Incorporating more native species, mixture of different heights, lawn percentages, naturalization
- It would be good to have greenery under the trees
- Height of recommended planting is site specific and dictated by sightlines etc.
- We can't comment on subdivisions because they get final approval by the County
- Individual developments is where we have an impact

Meeting Dates 2025: February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, September 11(Thursday), October 22, November 26

Adjournment:

Moved by Jim McCready

“That this meeting be adjourned”

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:20