

expressed interest in attending a future Committee Meeting. Catherine will connect with Mr. Khanna to request if he could attend the next meeting on September 6th.

Pending the Mr. Khanna's attendance, the Committee discussed the agenda for this meeting and the subjects they wish to bring forward. The Committee decided to discuss the following:

- Introduction to Committee
 - Initiatives/events/partnerships: Earth Day/Reuseapaloozaha, Act on Litter Day, Christmas Light Contests, Winter Walk for Warmth, welcome packages
- Communication
- Environmental Issues/Waste reduction – single use plastic program
- Trees – will they achieve their 2 billion trees goal?
- Childcare – how can we make sure \$10 day daycare reaches rural areas
- Addictions and mental health – ties into housing discussion
- Housing – transitional and emergency housing, rent geared-to-income

Julie Middleton will send the Committee a link regarding the new Alberta model of care that adopts a recovery-oriented approach for addiction and mental health. David Mayberry will send Catherine a list of topics and discussion points for the meeting.

Reuseapaloozaha/Earth Day Spring 2024

Bryan Smith inquired with David if the Committee was interested in sponsoring the spring Reuseapaloozaha event. Catherine will inquire with the Brownsville Hall Board if we can book the pavilion on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The next event takes place in Embro (Zorra) in the fall.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Draft Communication to Hall/Park Boards (Catherine/Deb)

Catherine and Deb do not have anything to report. David suggested that a part of this communication be regarding movie nights (screen, popcorn machine, assistance with licensing). The Committee discussed the tentative outdoor movie night at the Mount Elgin Community Centre (organized by the hall board). Julie will assist them with determining licensing requirements once they have selected a movie to screen. This will be added to the next meeting agenda.

World Environment Day

The Committee discussed the next World Environment Day, which takes place on Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Catherine noted the theme is, "a journey to a greener future, focusing on the collective effort to protect the planet and promote sustainability". The theme for Earth Day 2024 is planet versus plastics. The Committee noted this could be tied into Earth Day/Reuseapaloozaha to add a themed element to the next event in April 2024.

David suggested that film plastic be the focus for the next event – he knows a resident willing to conduct a demonstration regarding this topic. Julie noted that the Skyway Café at

the Tillsonburg Airport has done a great job switching from Styrofoam to recyclable take-out containers. She questioned if there are other local industries that we could encourage to shift away from single-use plastics?

The Committee requested communication material and targeted messaging be crafted regarding film plastics and alternatives. Oxford County may have some of this information which we can combine with our own. It was noted that statistics and visuals are impactful. The two focuses of this communication shall be around recycling/reusing, and not using in the first place.

Members of the Committee will collect their household's film plastic from March 22 to April 20, 2024 to be compared and analyzed.

Information Items and Correspondence

Local Government Week 2023

The Committee discussed the options for acknowledging local government week this year. David will contact John from Mount Elgin Reformed Christian School to see if they are interested in participating in a mock Council meeting in October or November. The Committee will host an essay writing contest again this year. Staff will reach out to schools by phone to promote the contest for grade 5 students. David will ask the Mayor of Ingersoll if they have any interest in partnering on this initiative.

Discussion Items

2024 Budget Survey

The Committee discussed the 2024 Budget Survey. The survey closes August 31, 2023. Staff will circulate the results once they have been sent from Oxford County.

Strategic Planning Update

The Committee reviewed the draft Strategic Map, presented to Council at their last meeting on August 8, 2023. Julie noted that these are all items that the Township is trying to aspire to, they may not be exactly true today. Public consultation takes place on September 19th at the Mount Elgin Community Centre following the Council meeting. If any Committee members have feedback, they are welcome to submit it to Julie in advance of the meeting.

Standing Items

Review of SWOX 2030 Action Item List (minutes of August 12th, 2015 meeting)

1. Social Responsibility
2. Communication
3. Active Living
4. Safety & Security

