

Engage and Inform Committee
Meeting Minutes
for February 8, 2023

Members Present: Councillor Valerie Durston, Mayor David Mayberry, Councillor Paul Buchner, Catherine White (2:34 p.m. via Zoom), Jen Thomson and Dianne Deamone

Staff Present: Julie Middleton, Nicole Chambers

Regrets: None

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Chair Valerie Durston and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: David Mayberry
 Seconded by: Dianne Deamone

RESOLVED that the agenda for the February 8th, 2023 Engage & Inform committee meeting be approved, as amended (resignation of Paula Beckett).

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: Paul Buchner
 Seconded by: Dianne Deamone

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the January 11th, 2023 Engage & Inform committee meeting be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Winter Walk for Warmth

Valerie noted that approval has been given for the use of a burn barrel, she contacted Rick about the hot chocolate as they were having a small issue with sourcing it from Tim Hortons. The Committee will meet at the walk location around 1:30 p.m. in advance of the event. Committee Members will bring the following items:

- David will bring a table
- Committee Members will bring their own chairs

- Valerie and Paul will bake cookies
- Julie will bring mugs
- Valerie will bring wood for the fire
- Valerie will contact Rick about the burn barrel and notify David if they cannot source one
- Julie will bring sandwich board signs for directional purposes

Nicole distributed community resource handout for review. Catherine identified there is one resource in Tillsonburg we may want to add – she will provide Nicole with this information.

Julie will extend an invitation to Shawn Shapton (head of Operation Sharing) to make a 15-minute presentation to Council at their meeting on March 7th.

Geocaching

Julie noted there was an issue with several of the GPS coordinates for the caches. Catherine responded that she had fixed most of them – she isn't sure why the issue was happening as many people were able to locate them. Julie will forward Catherine the geocaching emails she receives so Catherine can investigate them moving forward.

The Committee decided to add caches at the Wagner Cemetery and Cheese Factory in Zenda. Nicole and Julie to provide two more containers/note pads, etc. for these new geocaches. Catherine requested it to be noted that Wilma Brooks gave permission to access her property for the Brownsville Cheese Manufacturing Geocache location.

The Committee was pleased with the response they have had so far.

OPP Fraud Presentation

The Committee discussed the OPP Fraud Presentation that was made to Council at their last meeting (February 7, 2023). Their opinion was that the presentation went well, and information presented was valuable. They noted that 12-13 members of the public attended the presentation. Julie will send a copy of the presentation to the group. Staff will share tips from their presentation in the Village Voice, newsletter and social media.

The overall message of the presentation was that if you did not ask for it, assume that it is fraud and never send payments to anyone (cash, bitcoin, gift cards, etc.). The Committee is wondering if Brownsville Hall Board is willing to host a presentation as well – Paul will bring this to their meeting tonight.

Breakfast with the Boards

Julie noted that Ella Shelton is unable to be the keynote speaker for this event. Staff are looking for this Committee's feedback regarding the recommendation of structuring the working breakfast around strategic planning conversations to obtain feedback from the Township's Volunteers. The Committee recommended that staff pair it down to two or three questions at table groups. Board members will be given the questions in advance of the breakfast event to spark some thoughtful discussion. David will welcome the Board Members, followed by breakfast and a strategic planning/visioning workshop. A QR code

with a link to the strategic planning survey will be on each table. Julie also suggested adding in the question of how the Township can better reach people – as this has been a recurring issue noted by this Committee over the past few years.

Outdoor Movie Night

The Committee noted that moving forward they will not be hosting separate events, if the hall boards want to use it, we can partner to provide the screen and popcorn. The Committee questioned the licensing fee requirements. Julie has reached out to the library before who informed her that if the screen is within a facility covered by their license, we do not have to purchase an additional license. Julie will inquire with them what our options are and based on this information we can provide hall boards with what their options are to host movie night events.

Townhall Meetings – Strategic Planning

Council approved to host the following “Community Conversations” sessions (townhall meetings to discuss the strategic plan): February 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Elgin Community Centre, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. at the Beachville Legion and March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brownsville Community Centre.

Information will be circulated about this on social media and the website in the coming days once it is finalized.

Welcome Packages

Nicole will bring welcome packages (including a recycling bin and 2 garbage bag tags) to the Council Meeting for each respective Ward Councillor to hand out. Valerie noted there is a property on Ebenezer with new owners – she will send Nicole the address to create a welcome package.

Local Art/Artists

Paul will touch base with Trevor Pottleberg, and Valerie will ask Innika Rombouts regarding their thoughts and ideas on how we can spread awareness of local artists in South-West Oxford. This will be added to the next meeting agenda.

Earth Day Event

Nicole will provide a quote for the pollinator flower seeds. Trees have been ordered for Earth Day event at Sweaburg Park. We will have to order recycling bins, rain barrels, etc. through the County closer to the event date. Sweaburg Lions Pavilion will be rented for a cost of \$100.00. The event will be run in partnership with Reuseapalooza.

High-School Co-op for 2023-2024

Julie will discuss at an upcoming management meeting if there is an option for hiring a high-school co-op student next school year.

Litter Day and Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, May 9th is the provincial litter day. Committee scheduled to meet that day in lieu. Nicole will send out calendar invitations for the meetings from March until June. The Committee will decide at the June meeting if they plan on meeting in July and/or August.

Information Items and Correspondence

The Committee acknowledged the resignation of community member Paula Beckett. David will send her an email thanking her for her participation in the Committee.

Discussion Items

None.

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

New Business

None.

Adjournment

The Engage and Inform Committee adjourned at 3:43 p.m. to meet again on Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.