

Minutes COP Committee



January 27, 2010
Township of Puslinch Office

Attendance:

Glenna Smith, Doug Smith, Matthew Bulmer, Ron Van Ooteghem, Dick Visser, Holly Franklin, Dave Haley, Vaughan Norman, Sue Fielding, Sandra Solomon, Dennis Lever, Paul Anderson, Mike Ashley (OPP).

Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm

Opening Remarks;

Glenna welcomed the group to a new year of initiatives for the COP committee and started the meeting by asking each member to answer the question; "what one thing do I hope the COP committee does this year?" The answers are summarized as follows (in no particular order of priority) and give the committee much to do in 2010;

- Try to become better known in the community, more community awareness
- Continue with initiatives related to traffic calming in Aberfoyle and also look at the same initiatives for Morriston
- Launch the Road Watch program in the township
- Increase participation in the group
- More visibility with the speed monitor throughout the township – specifically in the Arkell and Crieff areas
- Focus on vehicle thefts

Santa Claus Parade – Review

Dave H provided a quick review of the parade on November 22nd, 2009. Dave was pleased with the entry and was very happy with the participation. A total of 38 volunteers helped prepare and/or participated in the float which was more than expected. Dave would like to express thanks to;

- Larry Lefevre of Mini Lakes who donated his truck and his time to help decorate and drive the float
- The students of SAID from Centennial High School who walked with the float
- Matt and family from the Car Store
- 15 members of MADD Wellington County
- Constables Carbary and Hull who rode the OPP horses

The committee would also like to thank Dave for putting his great organization skills to work once again to ensure another successful event.

Optimist Club Dinner – Review

Glenna reported that the event on November 24th at the Puslinch Community Center was well attended. There was a good turn out from the COP committee. Jack Hungan from the OPP provided an interesting talk on "Driving Distraction" with many questions from the group. Thank you, Jack for your participation and your time. Matthew conveyed a message from the Optimist Club expressing thanks for our on-going involvement with them. They requested a "year off" and asked that we look at it again in 2011. It was suggested that as an alternative, we consider other venues to promote awareness such as schools, in partnership with the OPP safety officers. We could also look at October as education month and plan events accordingly. Dave will discuss this idea with his Road Watch sub committee.

Road Watch Program

The Road Watch sub committee consists of Dave H, Sue, Sandra, and Keith. Glenna wrote a letter to township council on November 5th, 2009 asking for council to approve the program and for approval to proceed with implementation in the Township of Puslinch. Glenna received a response on November 25th, 2009 from Brenda Law, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer for the Township of Puslinch Township stating that council fully supports the COP Committee with respect to the implementation of the Road Watch Program and adopting the program as part of our mandate.

Dave provided a summary of progress to date which stemmed from their sub committee meeting on January 26th and asked for feedback from the group. Dave provided the group with minutes of their meeting which outlined the goals and timelines for the launch of the program. Please refer to Dave's handout for specifics. Some of the feedback and comments from the group are as follows;

- Need to find an effective way to measure success

- Education and effective communication is required for a successful launch – how to get the word out? Ideas suggested were to use the tax bill distribution, the township website, the Puslinch Pioneer, etc.

- The program should encourage people to report using the internet. Use the township website with a link to Road Watch and the OPP – Mike to provide an e-mail address

- Location and number of signs is very important. Locations must be very selective for effectiveness and to optimize costs. Avoid sign clutter. We will need to work with the township and county roads depts. It was suggested that we contact other areas running successful programs to get ideas about sign placement.

- We don't think that signs will be allowed on highway 6 even though this would be an important section of road

- The program is supported provincially

- We must register and need to check to fees required by Road Watch to use the sign. We expect the cost to be minimal. Dave will contact them about registration and fees.

- Hand written forms to report will be available at the township office and the OPP sub office can be used to deposit the forms

- We will need to re-write our own pamphlet for distribution which will include all applicable logos. We will inquire with the township about colour printing or look for other means to print them

- The launch is planned for the Aberfoyle Fall Fair

- The township will provide funding to launch the program. Donation will also be sought.

- We should consider doing presentations to schools, service clubs and other groups to help get the word out about the program

Puslinch Design Guideline Project (Traffic Calming);

The County of Wellington on behalf of the Township of Puslinch, has developed draft design guidelines to be applied to commercial, industrial and institutional development in Puslinch. The Township and County have participated in sessions with community representatives about priorities for the design guidelines, including the Brock Road and Highway 6 streetscape, site and building design, and protection of the unique character of Puslinch. Public input was provided at an open house held at the Puslinch Community Center on Tuesday, November 17th, 2009. Sarah Wilhelm from the Wellington County planning dept gave a presentation and was gathering input for further consideration. Progress on this initiative will continue in 2010.

Township Speed Limit Studies and Speed Monitor;

Nothing new to report at this time. Plans will be developed at an upcoming meeting to prepare for the 2010 season.

OPP Report

Mike will look more into vehicle theft stats for the area as it was mentioned that crime of this nature is on the rise. Many thefts are GM trucks and thieves have a quick getaway route to the 401.

Paul A mentioned that 5 to 7 vehicles are stolen each week from parking lots at the U of G.

Mike stated that overall, complaints in Puslinch are down and that he feels the committee's work is creating awareness and that our efforts are "paying off."

Hwy 6 Bypass

This initiative will continue again in 2010 even though the project was not included in the MTO's 5 year plan for funding. As before, Sue will provide regular updates on any progress.

Budget

The COP committee will request from the township a budget of \$500 again for 2010. We also expect the township to provide funding for the Road Watch program. The COP committee spent \$62.99 in 2009.

Maltby Road West and Wellington Road 46 (Gordon Street) Reconstruction;

Item deferred; Paul Rice will provide an update at an upcoming meeting. Any further correspondence will be reviewed at that time.

New Business / Carryover Business;

- Ron will draft another letter to be sent to Gord Ough at the county with a copy to the township, thanking the county for implementing our suggestion to install larger speed limit signs at the yellow flashing lights and along county road 46 through Aberfoyle. The letter will also include a suggestion to remove the 80 km/h sign eastbound on county road 34 that was placed just before the new traffic lights at Victoria road.
- Glenna received a letter on December 17th, 2009 (via the township) from Ross Hallett providing a suggestion to convert the complete section of county road 46 (Brock Road) from Maltby Road to McLean Road as a two lane road with a center turning lane throughout. Mr. Hallett also offers his opinion for five possible advantages;
 - Safer on/off access to Brock Road than a 4 lane road
 - Main traffic in the through lanes would not be impeded
 - Traffic speeds through Aberfoyle would be reduced
 - Design change could help restore the character of Aberfoyle
 - Design change would regain the "flavour" of a community road as opposed to a main access road to Guelph and would apply pressure on the MTO to complete the Hwy 6 bypass.

Mike does not agree with this concept at this time as it would drastically slow the movement of traffic in this area. Mike favours traffic circles to improve traffic flow. We do not want to create another situation similar to Morriston where traffic is often stopped and vehicles idle for long periods of time adjacent to village residences and businesses. Mike likes the idea of traffic circles vs. stop lights. They have proven to be effective and others regions are installing them. (E.g. Waterloo Region)

The group acknowledges Mr. Hallett's concerns and feels that the timing to implement this possible idea would be better served after the bypass has been constructed.

Ron will write a letter to respond to Mr. Hallett stating that his ideas are being looked at and to invite him to our next meeting.

- Glenna received correspondence on November 19th, 2009 (via Sue Fielding) from Lynn Weller regarding traffic safety in the village of Morriston. Recent accidents at the 401 and Brock Road traffic lights have elevated her concern. Due to heavy traffic and for easier access to Brock Road (Queen Street), local residents are using Calfass Road. This road is in poor condition, particularly in the winter and spring seasons. We agree that the road requires an upgrade and Sue will take this issue back to council. Lynn is requesting more police presence in the area and would like us to look into some of the traffic calming ideas that have been implemented and are being considered for Aberfoyle. Mike did receive pictures of the accidents and will investigate further and report back. Sue responded to Lynn's concerns by e-mail on November 19th and we will keep her informed.

- Concern was raised by Karen Ries regarding the intersection of Victoria Road south and Gilmour Road and the high traffic speed on Victoria Road. This is essentially a hidden intersection and turning out north or south onto Victoria road can be hazardous. Dick offered that this could be one of the worst intersections in the township. She would like to see the speed limit lowered on Victoria Road. Mike feels that reducing the speed limit will not change the traffic pattern as Victoria Road is now being used as a main artery to relieve traffic from the high level of development in the south end of Guelph. It was noted that Watson Road is also getting busier. It was suggested that this would be a good area for the speed monitor this spring. We should also check to see if there is a sign warning traffic of the hidden intersection at Gilmour Road.

Election of Officers

Chairperson – Glenna Smith

Secretary – Ron Van Ooteghem, Sue Fielding (backup)

Communications – Holly Franklin

Speed Monitor Captain – co-captains Doug Smith and Vaughan Norman

Road Watch Captain – Dave Haley

2010 Dates and Events

January 27

February 24

April 28

May 26

August 14

September 11 – Aberfoyle Fall Fair

September 29

October 27

November 28 – Santa Claus Parade

Meeting ended at 9 pm

Next Meeting is February 24th, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Township Office.