

Minutes COP Committee



February 24, 2010 Township of Puslinch Office

Attendance:

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

Guest; Ross Hallett

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm

Opening Remarks;

Glenna welcomed everyone and introduced Ross to the group. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and business from these minutes was addressed as follows;

1. No response as of yet from Gord Ough at the county regarding our letter requesting the 80 km/h sign on county road 34 be relocated.
2. The group appreciated that Ross attended our meeting to address his concerns directly. Ross was seeking feedback from our group and is summarized in the following point-form dialogue.

Ross Trying to force the issue regarding the approval of the Hwy 6 bypass
There is no place to walk or bike safely in the community
Hwy 6 destroys the effect of community
Need good, safe turning lanes

Mike County roads are designed and designated to move traffic

Sue MTO is unresponsive at this time regarding the Hwy 6 bypass
Successes are very slow in coming

Matt Had design guidelines (to hi-light Ross' concerns) been developed 20 years ago, we maybe wouldn't have a 4 lane road through Aberfoyle today.
Council has just approved the design guideline document prepared by county planner Sarah Wilhelm. This document outlines the township's final design guidelines for new developments following three main goals; enhancing the streetscape, promoting quality development, and respecting established character. Matthew suggested we get a copy of the document from the township office and review it at a future COP meeting.
The document is available to the community
(Note: there is an article in the Feb 26th issue of the Wellington Advertiser by Chris Daponte regarding the design guidelines discussion at council.)

Mike Feels that unfortunately, we will have to wait for the bypass before any of the suggested changes (i.e. from 4 lanes to 2 lanes with a turning lane through Aberfoyle on Brock Road can be implemented) Traffic flow would be impeded too much otherwise.

Ross we need develop a concept of sustainable community
Show leadership
Make a pleasant walkable/bikeable community

Matt the county is not in favour of bike lanes on county roads but likes paved shoulders.

Mike we all support the initiatives and suggestions that Ross has put forward.

Dick hopes that the county's attitude changes as he recalls the difficulty the township had to get traffic lights installed at Maple Leaf Lane to allow students to safely cross Brock Road.

Ross his group was successful in keeping Gordon St through the U of G a two lane road to promote student safety and to allow this corridor remain more walkable and bikeable.

Matt If we accommodate traffic, then we will get traffic.

- Sue As for Hwy 6, our concerns are not getting much attention from the MTO or the county. Through Morriston, the feeling is people would rather have traffic moving than idling near their homes for long periods of time.
- Matt We should plan to collect speed monitor data in the Morriston area this summer.

Road Watch Program (Update)

The Road Watch sub committee consists of Dave H, Sue, Sandra, and Keith.

Sandra handed out to the group a draft of the Road Watch pamphlets, a sample of the Citizen's Report Form, a list of tasks and timeline to implement the program, and an estimate of the approx costs to set up the program. Sue stated that there is a "process" to get permission to use the logo. The sub committee is encouraging the public to use internet reporting. Input from the group suggested it would likely work best to use the "roadwatch.ca" website (printed on the sign) with a link to the township or county website if this can be set up effectively. This can typically be set up for minimal cost (~\$100). We would need to determine who would look after this and decide how best to set this up. We must keep in mind that we will be training local residents to report. The sub committee has plotted potential locations for the signs on a township map. Locations proposed for Hwy 6 are not feasible due to strict MTO requirements for signage and long wait times to obtain approval. Regions with Road Watch programs currently implemented have been consulted to help determine effective sign locations. The map will be reviewed at the next COP meeting on March 31st to specifically discuss the Road Watch Program.

Next Steps;

Glenna will write a letter to township council (including a map to show the proposed sign locations), to request approval for sign placement. The letter will also ask for funding support in the amount of \$3,500. Once approval is granted at the township level, the COP Committee will ask for approval and possible funding from the county as well. We may also need approval from the City of Hamilton. We should also look at other means of raising money for the program possibly through private sponsorships.

Township Speed Limit Studies and Speed Monitor;

A list of potential speed monitoring locations identified so far for the 2010 season include;

Concession 4

Victoria Road at Gilmour Road

Morriston area

Watson Road south of 34

A plan will need to be developed for the upcoming season.

OPP Report

Mike reported a significant increase, in all areas of the county, regarding break ins and thefts of ATV's motorcycles, and all types of recreational vehicles. Mike encouraged us to get the word out and to look out for large unfamiliar SUV's in the area.

Mike confirmed an e-mail from Dave H that fines have increased for careless driving (\$500) and for failure to move to the left for emergency vehicles (\$500)

Hwy 6 Bypass

Sue, along with Brad W and Matthew, met with Liz Sandals to discuss the Hwy 6 bypass. No commitments were made. Sue inquired about safety upgrades to be implemented and timelines. Further discussion and meetings with MTO and Ms. Sandals are pending. Sue will provide any new information or progress either by e-mail or at the next meeting.

Budget

The COP committee will request from the township an operating budget of \$500 again for 2010. This request will be included in the letter to council regarding the Road Watch Program.

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.

Ron will call Paul to find out if any update is available.

New Business

Sue received a letter from Mr. Finamore (sp??) regarding an upgrade to Calfass Road. Residents are being encouraged to use this road to access Hwy 6. Sue will bring the letter to the next meeting.

Dick asked at council if the township could get a price to upgrade a section of this road west of Hwy 6. An estimate is pending. This will be discussed further at the next regular meeting.

The COP committee received e-mail correspondence from Dianne Del Zotto requesting information about speed limits in the township. She is concerned about the speed limit on Concession 4 and overall public safety for the residents and motorists. She is inquiring about the possibility to lower the speed limit on Concession 4 and also putting in a four way stop at the intersection of Conc. 4 and Sideroad 10 N. She would also like to see more enforcement.

Council has discussed these concerns and is requesting that the OPP increase enforcement in this area. Also, the COP committee will set up the speed monitor on Conc. 4 to bring a higher level of awareness to motorists using this road. The study will target morning and evening commuter traffic as suggested by Ms. Del Zotto to be the most problematic times.

Mike doesn't feel that 4-way stops are the answer and stated that 90% of fatalities are at stop signs.

Trucks may be using Conc. 4 more do to construction on the west side of the Hanlon in the new business park as some road accesses have been closed.

Glenna will e-mail Ms. Del Zotto back to let her know that the OPP will be increasing enforcement and that the COP committee will monitor speeds in the area as soon as possible.

Glenna and Mark Cloes will attend a meeting at Sunset Villa in April to speak about Senior Safety and the COP committee.

Meeting ended at 8:20 pm

Next Meeting is March 31st, 2010 at 7:00 pm at the Township Office. – Special meeting to discuss the Road Watch Program