



Minutes COP Committee

January 25, 2012
Township of Puslinch Office

Present: Glenna Smith, Sgt. Mike Ashley, Paul Anderson, Councillor Susan Fielding, Holly Franklin, Dave Haley, Ted Laws, Frank Montgomery, Vaughan Norman, Doug Smith, Sandra Solomon, Councillor Wayne Stokley and Ron Van Ooteghem and Mayor Dennis Lever and Councillor Ken Roth.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

1. Welcome

- Glenna welcomed our guest speaker, Insp. Scott Smith, Mayor Dennis Lever and Councillor Ken Roth as well as the Committee Members. Once again, it was a very good turnout.

2. Minutes of January 10, 2012 meeting.

- The minutes were approved as written.

3. Guest Speaker – Insp. Scott Smith

At our January 10th meeting there were several questions regarding the proposed changes to the Committee name, possible direction and the logo. We had invited Scott to clarify the issue and answer the questions.

- Scott handed out a summary of what the SCC was and its goals.
- He remarked on how the Country of Wellington was the 2nd safest community in Canada and the safest for violent crime
- However, he felt that there was lots of room to improve the statistics and that building a safe community was about more than just crime.
- Motor vehicle collisions were still very high, though fatalities were down.
- Personal injury had not declined and suicide attempts and deaths were also very high.
- As our population aged, falls would likely increase for the elderly.
- More children in the area would also increase falls off bicycles, skateboards, etc.
- What could we as a community do?
- Safe Communities Canada is a national organization across Canada
- It was started in 1996 by a retired policeman and falls under the WHO.
- The WHO has granted the Safe Communities Canada powers to certify communities as safe communities and they can ultimately receive, not only a Canadian Safe Community designation, but also an International one.
- There is a fair amount of work for local Safe Community Committees (SCC) to do to get the designation.
- SCC's are made up of political representation, educators, businesses, health care professionals, Fire Departments, etc. and citizens who live and work in

the community, they are volunteers and have the option to come and go.

- There are many factors to consider, including economics.
- If a community is safe, people want to live there, businesses want to relocate there and jobs will be created.
- Scott's goal is for our Committee to continue as we have been but also to become part of the SCC.
- We could keep our COP name and our current logo.
- We will have members who sit on the County SCC and the two Committees can work together to achieve our goals.
- The SCC only meets about 3 or 4 times a year.

This had answered many of our concerns especially regarding our Committee name and the current logo. None of us had been keen to change either of these as they are how we are known in the community.

- Susan got confirmation from Scott that we need not change either our name or logo and could still be part of the SCC.
- She also asked what was required to get the WHO designation
- Scott said that there are about 10 tasks that need to be done and one is to look at what resources are available in the community.
- He suggested that individually we would have a hard time coming up with all of them but, collectively, we would be able to.
- There will be a big presentation taking place in March – basically the start of the SCC in Wellington County and he would have more information then.
- Scott said that he was prepared to work hard for this designation but he could not do it without the support of the community and the various Committees and organizations.
- Glenna asked if he hoped to have every municipality in the County as part of it and the answer was yes.
- Because only Mount Forest and Guelph-Eramosa do not have COP Committees, he would be going directly to those Councils and he was hoping all the COP Committees would agree to join the SCC
- Wayne said he like the idea of being part of a larger group, especially as we can still carry on doing what we have been and set our own goals and incorporate the SCC goals as well.
- Susan asked if they would need to ask Council for more financing (Council was doing the budget for the year at the moment).
- Scott said that there may be some funding available from the SCC.
- He noted that we were the only Committee that was funded by Council.
- Business sponsorship would be a good thing to look at.
- It was decided to think about how we wanted to combine the SCC designation with our current logo for the next meeting.
- ***(If you look at the top of the Minutes, you will see one suggestion I have come up with – with input from some other Committee members).***
- Frank asked about crime in various areas of the community.
- Scott said that only 10% of their responses are for criminal activity (with only 1% for Major Crime)
- Traffic is around 26% and the remainder are all 911, assault and other related calls – a lot non-emergencies but must be responded to.
- This costs the County a lot of money.

- Dennis remarked on how easy it is to accidentally dial 911 from a cell phone (hip dialing) and wondered if education would help.
- Scott said that they are currently printing postcards with information regarding how to prevent accidentally dialing 911 and listing non-emergency numbers.
- Unfortunately, people tend to take the path of least resistance and will call 911 for non-policing matters as well.

Glenna thanked Insp. Smith for attending and giving us the presentation. The Committee now understood what was required and were a lot happier about it. Susan and Holly stated they would like to be our representatives on the SCC and Glenna is also hoping to attend.

Insp. Smith and Dennis left the meeting. Glenna thanked Dennis for attending.

4. New Logo incorporating the SCC

- Glenna reiterated that we should give this some thought for the next meeting on February 22, 2012.

**All Committee
Feb 22nd Agenda**

5. Review of our Goals for 2012

- Glenna reminded everyone of what we had set at the previous meeting (Road Watch, Domestic Violence and the Vial of Life) and it appeared we could continue with them.
- We looked at the suggestions provided by Scott in his handout for the SCC and decided to wait until after March (when we had more information) before selecting any of those goals to add.
- In the meantime we could research resources that are available to us.
- About 15 years ago the Puslinch Directory had been introduced into the community (it came from the previous Community Forum)
- They were no longer available and were out of date.
- Mike volunteered to update the directory as this is now a job assigned to him by the OPP.
- Sandra will scan her copy and send the information to Mike.
- Ted was asked to do a presentation on the Vial of Life at the next meeting (February 22nd).

Committee

Mike

**Sandra
Ted**

6. Entertainment – March 24th at Duff's.

- The Committee Members had been asked to come up with ideas.
- Glenna asked everyone and most seemed to like the Road Rage topic.
- Dave felt that we could incorporate many of the Road Watch infractions in the skit.
- A sub-Committee of Glenna, Frank, Vaughan, Dave, Holly, Doug and Sandra (props) has been formed.

Glenna thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting February 22, 2012 at 7:00 pm. at Township Offices.