

**Report  
COP Committee**

**March 27, 2013  
Township of Puslinch Office**



**Present:** Glenna Smith (Chair), Doug Smith, Ted Laws, Chuck Summers, Paul Anderson, Councillor Susan Fielding, Vaughan Norman, Heather Laybourne, Frank Montgomerie, Karen Harding, Dave Haley, Ron Van Ooteghem Sgt. Mike Ashley and Sandra Solomon.

**Guests:** Insp. Scott Lawson, Wellington OPP and Mayor Dennis Lever.

**Regrets:** Wayne Stokley.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 pm.

## **Welcome**

- Glenna started the meeting by reminding us of our Aim.
- Ted Laws introduced Chuck Summers who will be replacing Paul Anderson.
- Insp. Scott Lawson and Mayor Dennis Lever were in attendance to speak to the Committee.

## **Presentation by Insp. Scott Lawson**

- Insp. Lawson had met with some of the Members at the SCC Conference in November, 2012 and congratulated the Committee on all the work they had done.
- Wellington County had been named the safest County in Canada
- This was a collective effort and we should all be proud of the roles we have played in it.
- The designation is held for one year and we need to strive to keep it.
- Insp. Lawson took over as Wellington County OPP Inspector in October last year.
- He had worked and lived in Wellington County prior to being moved around Ontario so it was like coming home.
- Some changes had been made and he saw a lot of good being done in the County.
- The OPP were more than just cruisers and uniforms, they were actively working in the community and this was being advertised.
- Insp. Lawson had identified areas that did not have COP or SC Committees and had approached the Township Councils to request that one be started.
- Guelph Eramosa was in the process of starting one.
- The OPP were starting a new program called **Operation Safeguard Ontario**.
- It will be manned by auxiliary officers with special training.
- The focus will be small businesses/residences that have been victims of a crime.
- They will offer to do a security review of the property and make recommendations to make the property safer and, hopefully, prevent future break-ins, mischief, etc.
- The OPP had also supported the installation of Community Safety Zone signs in Morriston.
- He then opened the floor up to questions or comments.
- Dave Haley remarked one of the reasons for the Committee's success was that we had Sgt. Mike Ashley on the Committee.

- He had been on the Committee for many years and the continuity and work he did was a big asset to the Committee.

Glenna thanked Insp. Lawson for his presentation and invited him to stay for the remainder of the meeting if he had the time.

### **Minutes of February 27, March 7 and 16, 2013 meetings.**

- Prior to dealing with the Minutes, Glenna asked Mayor Lever if he wished to address the Committee now or later and he indicated he would stay for the meeting.
- ***The February 27 Minutes were approved with one correction.***
- There had been an electronic motion circulated to the Committee on **March 7, 2013**.
- It was approved via e-mail with 8 in favour and 1 conflict of interest.
- There had been a third, informal meeting at Tim Horton's on **March 16, 2013**.
- After months of contacting various sports organizations, Susan had suddenly received a response from the Hamilton Tiger Cats.
- Ryan Hinds would be prepared to come and speak but there were only 2 dates: April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Sandra handed out copies of the Minutes from that meeting.
- ***Highlights:*** Decision made to go ahead on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Duff's church.
- Susan and Sandra: responsible for the poster/advertising with help from Glenna.
- Sandra: refreshments with help from Susan and Karen.
- As the Ti-Cat contact had indicated that it would be their preference that another speaker also be there, an OPP officer who went into the schools would be approached.
- More details on this under Reports.

### **Business Arising from Minutes of February 27, 2013**

- **Speeding in Aberfoyle**
  - Ron had met with the resident regarding his request for more speed signs in Aberfoyle and also a greater OPP presence.
  - Ron had also driven the route himself and noted that there is a long distance between the two 50 km signs and one near the Aberfoyle Mill would be appropriate, however, the signs currently do meet Wellington County guide lines.
  - It was asked whether a sign could be placed with an existing sign.
  - Mike explained that it would be too low.
  - The resident would be prepared to have the speed monitor on his property again
  - Mike drew Insp. Lawson's attention to the fact that the data couldn't be shared.
  - Insp. Lawson seemed surprised and said they would revisit this.
  - Insp. Lawson noted that with County Road 46 being a heavily trafficked exit from the 401 it was a highly policed area.
  - They also wanted to do more truck inspections in the spring.
- **Budget**
  - Glenna asked the Mayor if the Township budget had been finalized yet and if we were getting any money.
  - The Mayor noted that the budget was still being worked on.
  - Dave asked the Mayor if there was a line item for the proposed traffic calming work to be done in Morriston.
  - The Mayor said that Council still had to talk about it.
- **Vial of Life**
  - Glenna had been providing information to Clifford, Harriston and Palmerston.
  - They were surprised at the support they received from pharmacies.

- Program continues to do well here in Puslinch.
- **Action at Puslinch Lake**
  - Doug is still planning to look into this.
  - Heather had contacted Don Creed about No Parking signs but, as it is a County Road, she needs to write to the County.
  - Mike noted that, without the signs, there can be no enforcement.
  - **Later:** The Mayor suggested that Heather write the letter as soon as possible as the County Road Committee, where it would be discussed, was meeting in a couple of weeks.

## **Financial Report/Budget**

- The February 28<sup>th</sup> Bank Statement was presented.
  - Not included: any expenses that related to the Bullying Presentation.
  - So far, the only expenses for the Highway 6 Petition project have been covered by donations received.
  - At the last meeting, Sandra had questioned if we were the only Committee being asked to provide a financial statement to Council.
  - **Later:** The Mayor addressed this question by saying that if it was a one-time grant they did not require a statement.
  - If we apply for a further grant, they need a statement to see what was done with the money.

## **Sub-Committee Reports**

- **Highway 6 Petition**
  - Dave outlined what the sub-committee had done to date and showed the packages that were given to the participating businesses.
  - Each page of the petition has to have the background and the wording of the petition.
  - Dave has a tracking system of where all the clipboards are and, so far, 30 have gone out.
  - Karen, with the help of her nephew, had set up the on-line petition and she had done a fantastic job.
  - The original url had been quite long and was now a shorter one ([hwy6bypass.ca](http://hwy6bypass.ca)). The two sites are linked.
  - Two press releases had already gone out and a third was due to go out that night.
  - The media had given the project good coverage.
  - There was some confusion resulting from interviews with Bill Knetsch and some people thought there were 2 petitions doing the rounds.
  - The Mayor had been at the interview and he said it had been made very clear of the COP Committee's involvement and Bill had given the reporter the information package provided by Dave.
  - Finally, after several requests, corrections had been made.
  - Sandra had written letters to the Mercury and the Wellington Advertiser (who had kept the projects separate) to ensure the public knew that there was only one petition and that it was being run by the COP Committee.
  - Bill had sent out the draft petition package before it had been approved.
  - Dave met with Bill to sort things out and they were now working together to try and get the correct information out.
  - Bill's focus is the calming measures for Morriston and Dave said the best calming measure for Morriston would be the by-pass.

- The Mayor also noted that when he met with the reporter, he very clearly told him there were 3 projects underway: Bill's Morriston Traffic Calming, the Highway 6 Petition and an Economic Impact Study that was being done by Council.
- Council supports all endeavours and asks that COP not get involved in the Economic Impact Study.
- Glenna noted that MPP Ted Arnott had again risen in Parliament this past week to bring attention to the realignment and Morriston.
- Ted had suggested to her that the Committee might also want to meet with the MPP's to the north and south and offered to join us.
- On discussion it was agreed this was a good idea and Glenna will set up meetings with both MPPs.
- Glenna invited the Mayor and Council to join us.
- Mayor Lever said he would pass the invitation onto Council.
- **Bullying Presentation**
  - Glenna confirmed the location, time and date of the presentation
  - The Fireside Group at the church had allowed us to take over their time slot.
  - Susan had done an excellent job on the posters.
  - Susan had received good support from Tim Horton's and they will supply Timbits and donate Tim Cards for the draw.
  - Susan had contacted the school and the organizer of the minor soccer in Puslinch.
  - It had been suggested that, as Ryan does not charge a fee, we should make a donation to a charity he supports. This was approved by the Committee.
  - There would also be a Free Will Offering box at the door for Guyana Help the Kids.
  - Ryan will be bringing an official Tiger Cat football that he will sign.
  - Bob Bortoleto from the OPP would be coming to talk on bullying.
  - Mike also indicated that Bob had a very good bullying presentation that was on-line.

## **Mayor Dennis Lever**

- The Mayor commented that he is always asked why we are such a successful Committee and he responds that they should ask us!
- We are a very hard working Committee and will work well with the SCC (Parachute)
- Glenna asked if it would be possible to change the name on the Township website from SCC to COP as we had not changed our name.
- It was also listed as a Committee of Council which we are not.
- The Mayor said this would be done when they filled the IT position.
- Vaughan asked the Mayor if they were constructing an exit from the Maple Leaf site onto County Road 46 at the north end of the property.
- The Mayor said it was requested by the Fire Department and would only be an emergency exit.
- Dave brought up the problems of County Road 34 and other back roads being used as emergency routes.
- Insp. Lawson said he understood the problem but there was really no other alternative.
- If the 401 was closed, the traffic had to go somewhere.

## **Safe Communities Canada**

- **Insurance**
  - This is blanket liability insurance and covers all the people on those groups that fall under the SCC name.
  - As we are not covered under the Township, it was decided to go with this insurance..

- **Banners**
  - The Committee was concerned about displaying a banner with SCC Puslinch on it when no such group existed in the Township.
  - Glenna will speak to Linda Dickson about this.

## **New Business**

**The next COP Committee meeting will be held on April 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Township Office. All welcome.**