

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.**

The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex

Present: Steve McCabe, Councillor, Chairperson
Andy Lennox, Mayor
Barbara Dobreen, Councillor, Township of Southgate
Barry Lavers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Facilities
Tom Bowden, Arthur Facilities Manager
Mark McKenzie, Mount Forest Facilities Manager
Cathy Conrad, Executive Assistant

Absent: Michael Givens, CAO/Deputy Clerk
Dan Yake, Councillor

CALLING THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson McCabe called the meeting to order.

PASSING AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION REC 2015-40

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

Seconded by: Councillor Burke

THAT the agenda for the November 3, 2015 Recreation & Culture Committee meeting be accepted and passed.

CARRIED

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST(S) AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

No declarations of pecuniary interest were declared

DELEGATION

Mount Forest Patriots
Derek Bridgewater, President
Rob Nixon, General Manager

Mr. Bridgewater and Mr. Nixon appeared before the committee to express their concerns regarding the Greater Metro Hockey League (GMHL) bringing a Junior A team to Wellington North.

- The GMHL is an outlaw league and is not sanctioned by the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) nor by Hockey Canada. The OHA and Hockey Canada governs the majority of hockey teams in Canada and they have very specific and

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.

rigid rules and regulations that must be adhered to. The GMHL seem to make their own rules as they see fit.

- A GMHL team would infringe on the Patriots drawing area and sponsors. The Patriots have a designated area for recruiting players and are only allowed four imported players each season. Imported players are from within Ontario. The GMHL would drastically diminish the Patriots resources as a Not For Profit organization and impact sponsors.
- GMHL rosters show the vast majority of players come from the United States and Russia. Questions regarding the players: Who pays the billets? Have the players completed school? Are they productive in our community? Who holds them accountable?
- The Patriots pay hefty insurance premiums with the Wellington North named as a rider. Proof of insurance must be given before they even step on the ice. Will there be guarantees that the Township won't be liable in the event of an injury to a player or spectator? Who is responsible for the premiums and will there be adequate coverage?
- The NHL considers the GMHL to be sub-par, importing castoffs or kids from non-traditional hockey countries looking for better competition. There is little hope of a GMHL player having a future career in hockey.
- There are reports of the GMHL recruiting teenagers to further their dreams in a non-sanctioned league where fees, room and board, etc can cost up to \$20,000. The parents of a 19 year old Russian playing in Shelburne bankrupted themselves getting their son to Canada and it still wasn't enough. He owed the team \$3,500.00 and it was only through media readers donations that got him out of debt.
- Many foreign GMHL players are not in school and end up in small rural towns that are strange to them and they are not always welcomed and they do not contribute to the community. The league does not have a policy or strategy to help players acclimate to their new environs and attrition is frequent.
- The OHA Junior hockey program is designed to develop players, many of which will move up to a higher level of hockey. Teams under the OHA umbrella have a continuous stream of legitimated scouts at their games watching progression of players.
- The OHA is not in it for the money. A recently implemented registration fee of \$300. that goes towards the OHA's overhead, staffing and the AGM. The teams do not benefit from the fee.
- New mandatory programs for players and personnel are constantly implemented. A Prevention Services Officer talks to players multiple times during the season about their rights. He has completed qualification courses and is at arms length from the team to ensure there is no bias. There is a zero tolerance regarding hazing and a strict policy regarding drugs and alcohol. A code of conduct must be followed on and off the ice. The entire Patriot's team have completed the Safe Talk program which teaches suicide awareness and next steps should you be concerned about someone committing suicide. The GM completed a mandatory nutrition course this season. The Patriot's have a team Doctor, Physiotherapist, Pointstreak Technician, Announcer, Trainers, Equipment Manager, President &

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.**

VP, Treasurer, Secretary, etc. who are all volunteers that do it for the love of hockey, our team and our community. You will not find the same in the GMHL.

Mayor Lennox questioned the impact on player recruiting. The GMHL left an impression that there would be little impact on the Patriots. Mr. Nixon explained that the GMHL say they won't infringe on players but they have already contacted 6 of the Patriots players. They put pressure on players by creating a "What can you offer" attitude to create competition. The GMHL makes empty promises to potential players and then don't follow through. The OHA has stability. The GMHL stability relies on payment for support. They use a Junior A title that is not fitting to the caliber of hockey played. Players from the GMHL are banned from OHA teams. The GMHL also uses the same tactics with sponsors.

Mayor Lennox commented that the GMHL is not counting on revenues from attendance because it is a pay to play league. Mayor Lennox asked Barry Lavers, Director of Recreation Parks & Facilities, if he had obtained information regarding other GMHL teams. Mr. Lavers explained that the GMHL is new in Grey County. Meaford sold their team back as the people in Meaford had to carry them. There are teams in Markdale and Feversham. The Towns are unlikely to buy into those teams. The team in Feversham is experiencing problems and may move out because of lack of fan support.

Councillor Burke asked how many GMHL players are local. Mr. Nixon explained that 70 to 80% of the players are Russian. There are three teams in Grey County and only one boy is local.

Mr. Bridgewater asked that the Committee keep the Patriots aware of what is happening.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the September 15, 2015 Recreation & Culture Committee meeting were received and adopted by Council at the Regular Meeting of Council held on September 28, 2015.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councillor Burke asked about the status of the staff report regarding the Greater Metro Hockey League. Barry Lavers, Director of Recreation Parks & Facilities, stated that he was waiting for the presentation from the Patriots. He has not been able to reach the Arena Manager from Markdale but has more information with regards to Feversham. Mr. Lavers stated that discussion may have to take place during a closed meeting session.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) 2016 Recreation Fee Schedule (Preliminary)

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.

Councillor Burke questioned the fee for Non-Prime Ice. She would prefer the rate to be the same as the fee charged for minor sports. Mr. Lavers explained that in 2014 it was decided that the Non-Prime Ice rental rate would be raised in three equal increments over a three year period to eventually equal the Minor Sports rate. This year is stage two of the increase.

Committee reviewed the 2016 Recreation Fee Schedule. Direction was given to staff to determine the actual cost of the soccer pitches and ball diamonds.

Resolution REC 2015-41

Moved by: Councillor Dobreen

Seconded by: Councillor Burke

THAT the Recreation & Culture Committee approve the 2016 Recreation Fee Schedule as presented and recommend to the Council of The Township of Wellington North that the 2016 Recreation Fees be captured in a by-law to be presented to Council.

CARRIED

- 2) Pedestrian Bridge at Angus Smith Park, Mount Forest

Barry Lavers, Director of Recreation Parks & Facilities, provided an update on the pedestrian bridge at Angus Smith Park in Mount Forest. The Mount Forest & District Lions Club completed repairs for safety of the bridge. Splines were replaced. Some board sections may require work. An assessment by a professional engineer may be needed. A letter has been sent to thank the club.

- 3) West Luther Trail update (Councillor McCabe)

Councillor McCabe stated that signs and fencing are still being put up. The County has put in approach culverts on County Road 16. A Grand Opening was held on September 26. Mayor Lennox commented that approach fencing to limit ATV use is being installed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence tabled.

REPORTS

Report CAO 2015-28 Recreation Agreement - Southgate

The Committee reviewed a proposed agreement received yesterday from Southgate

Resolution REC 2015-42

Moved by: Councillor Burke

Seconded by: Mayor Lennox

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
RECREATION & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.

THAT the Recreation and Culture Committee of the Township of Wellington North receive for information report CAO 2015-28 Recreation Agreement-Township of Southgate-Ice Oriented Activity;

AND FURTHER THAT Recreation and Culture Committee recommend that the Southgate proposal received November 2, 2015 be agreed to in principle.

CARRIED

Facility Usage Reports

- Arthur & Area Community Centre
- Mount Forest & District Sports Complex

Resolution REC 2015-43

Moved by: Mayor Lennox

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

THAT the Recreation and Culture Committee receive for information the Arthur and Mount Forest Facility Usage Reports for September and October 2015.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Burke inquired if there has been discussion with the Arthur Optimist Club regarding the roof on the Arthur pavilion. Councillor McCabe commented that they have not been able to set a date to meet with the Club.

Mayor Lennox commented that the strategic plan has not been finalized. Part of the plan includes interacting with service groups. He sees this as an opportunity to reach out to groups and ask "What can we do together?"

Councillor Dobreen confirmed that she will contact the Southgate Clerk regarding revisions to dates in the Recreation Agreement.

Councillor McCabe inquired about a complaint regarding signage for concession stand staff. Mr. Lavers stated the sign was unauthorized and the situation has been dealt with.

NEXT MEETING

December 8, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Mount Forest & District Sports Complex

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution REC 2015-44

Moved by: Councillor Burke

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

THAT the Recreation and Culture Committee meeting of November 3, 2015 be adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

CARRIED