

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLINGTON NORTH
MOUNT FOREST AQUATICS AD-HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 @ 7:00 P.M.
VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM**

Committee Members Present:

- Sherry Burke, Councillor, Chairperson
- Laurie Doney, Member
- Al Leach, Mount Forest Lions Club
- Ray Tout, Member

Guests: Flora Burke

Staff in Attendance:

- Mandy Jones, Manager of Recreation, Community and Economic Development
- Mike Wilson, Community Development Coordinator

Regrets:

- Vern Job, Mount Forest Lions Club
- Penny Renken, Councillor, Member
- Jessica McFarlane, Member

Call to Order
Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
Adoption of Agenda
Moved by Member Tout Seconded by Member Doney THAT the agenda for the January 21, 2025, Township of Wellington North Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee meeting be accepted and passed. CARRIED
Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
None declared.
Minutes of Previous Meeting – October 22, 2024
Accepted by Council at the December 2, 2024 Meeting of Wellington North Council Moved by Member Leach Seconded by Member Doney THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee receive for information the Minutes from the October 22, 2024, committee meeting. CARRIED
Closed Session
Moved by Member Tout Seconded by Member Leach

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee go into a meeting at 7:19 p.m. that is closed to the public under subsection 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, specifically:

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

CARRIED

Rise and Report from Closed Meeting Session

Moved by Member Leach
Seconded by Member Doney

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee rise from a closed meeting session at 7:53 p.m.

CARRIED

Moved by Member Tout
Seconded by Member Doney

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee receive the verbal report from Chair Burke on corporate fundraising;

AND THAT the Committee approve the confidential direction to staff.

CARRIED

Moved by Member Doney
Seconded by Member Tout

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee approve the Closed Meeting Minutes of the September 10, 2024 Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

Guest Burke left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Corporate Donor Update

Moved by Member Tout
Seconded by Member Doney

Recommendation:

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee receive for information the verbal update on presentations made to local organizations since the last committee meeting.

CARRIED

Member Tout reported that no presentations were made in December. Member Leach provided a brief update on the presentations made to the Municipality of West Grey and the Township of Southgate. Committee anticipates that contributions to the new Mount Forest Outdoor Pool will be reviewed as part of the budget process.

Staff noted that West Grey has approved their 2025 budget, and that no correspondence has been received indicating a possible contribution. Staff will review the West Grey budget to see if a contribution was included in the 2025 budget.

The Committee asked staff to send follow-up letters to both West Grey and Southgate

General Fundraising Discussion

Staff shared that they have been contacted by a local resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, about contributing a monthly donation towards the pool project. Staff will make all efforts to ensure the donor remains anonymous.

A brief update was provided to the Committee about the Centre Wellington Community Foundation and how they may be able to support recurring payments. Staff will bring an update to the next Committee meeting.

The Fundraising Sub-Committee did not report any new activities, however expressed that they will be ramping up activities with the start of the new year.

Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

Moved by Member Tout
Seconded by Member Doney

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee receive for information the verbal update from staff on the application made to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2.

CARRIED

Staff shared that the Township's application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) – Stream 2 was submitted on January 15. The application requests 50% of the total project cost, based on the Class C Cost Estimate that was completed in 2023. Staff also shared that the response from the community in regards to letters of support was tremendous, with some touching and heartfelt letters received.

Member Leach asked if there was any indication on when a funding decision would be made. Staff reported that CSRIF – Stream 1 closed in October, and that no funding announcements from Stream 1 have been made at this time. Staff noted that applications for Stream 2 are being accepted on an ongoing basis until all funds have been dispersed. There have been no indications from the Ministry on when the announcements will be made.

Staff explained that CSRIF was announced as a one-time funding opportunity of \$200 million. Parks and Recreation Ontario reviewed the Township's application and provided feedback - staff expressed gratitude to PRO for their efforts in advocating for our project.

The Committee thanked staff for their efforts on the CSRIF – Stream 2 application.

ROMA Delegation Update

Chair Burke provided the Committee with an update on the Township's delegation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference on January 21. Chair Burke noted this was the second delegation the Township has had with the Ministry regarding the Mount Forest Outdoor Pool Project and advocated for the continuation of infrastructure funding. Chair Burke spoke to Ministry representatives about the history of the pool, the benefits of a new pool to the community, and the work of

the Committee in fundraising for the pool. CAO Brooke Lambert spoke to the Ministry about the Strategic Plan and the Growth Management Action Plan, how this project aligns with those plans, and how a new Mount Forest Outdoor Pool would not only benefit current residents but help attract new residents and businesses. CAO Lambert also expressed how an outdoor pool is important for a community of our size.

Chair Burke said the Ministry was very engaged, and acknowledged that this was the second meeting between the two parties regarding this project. She stated she was very optimistic leaving the meeting. Chair Burke expressed her hope that the Ministry looks at small communities like Wellington North and the importance of projects like ours when making its CSRIF funding decisions.

Other Business/Roundtable

Member Tout reported that he received a \$500 donation from a resident for the pool. He noted that the marketing materials must be working, as he received this donation unsolicited. Member Tout asked if staff could draft a letter that could be sent to donors thanking them for their donation. Member Tout also thanked staff for their work on the CSRIF application.

Chair Burke reported that she was in attendance at the December 18, 2024 Mount Forest Lions Bingo selling swag. She reported that several individuals picked up brochures with donation information, as well as sold some swag. Chair Burke said there is a lot of good discussion in the community about the new pool.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the chair.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Tout
Seconded by Member Doney

THAT the Mount Forest Aquatics Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee meeting of January 21, 2025, be adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

CARRIED