



## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

N/A

## **Information Items and Correspondence**

### **Neighbours Helping Neighbours**

The Committee reviewed information which was presented to staff during Emergency Preparedness Week 2023. Sault Ste Marie offers a “Neighbours Helping Neighbours” community grant to help residents make connections and relationships to help enhance their emergency preparedness.

The Committee discussed how we can leverage the skills within the community and how we can encourage neighbours to help each other. They noted that the Township would not establish this or provide funding at this time, it would have to be organized through the hall/park boards (community groups).

Catherine and Deb will work on communication for the hall/park boards and they will bring it back to the Committee at the next meeting for review. Staff will then circulate this information to hall and park boards to see if we can get a program started within the local communities/villages.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Winter Walk for Warmth – 2024 Event Brainstorming**

The Committee scheduled this event to take place on February 24, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lawsons Trail. The Committee discussed partnering with the Ingersoll Nature Club – Julie/Nicole will reach out to Sheila Fleming regarding this. The Committee discussed how we can better advertise this event for increased participation. It was noted that it will be shared through the regular channels (social media, newsletter, website, etc.), brought to Safe & Well Oxford and listed on the new community calendar.

Staff will also request (via email) that hall/park board chairs add the scheduling of events to their next meeting (for the purpose of creating a Township-wide events calendar to be circulated at the start of next year).

### **Local Artisan Market**

Valerie noted there is an Oxford Studio tour that happens annually, it was held last month on May 6 and 7. She questioned if we should suggest this to local artists in the community and steer them towards this event? The Committee discussed the intent behind the local artisan market, which was to engage with/promote South-West Oxford artisans only.

Julie noted that this can be added to the email to the hall board chairs, and staff will inquire if an artisan market could be offered in partnership with one of their events (i.e., food truck evening, fundraiser supper, fun day, etc.)? If the Committee is looking to provide funding for this, it will have to be considered as a part of the 2024 budget discussions. David

questioned if we could add artisan markets/sales to the town-wide yard sale events in the future as another option. Deb discussed the Originals Plus group in Brownsville and their ability to organize similar events (for charity).

### Revitalizing “Downtown Core” Areas

The Committee continued their discussion regarding the work that can be done to revitalize the Township’s villages.

### ActON Litter Day (Debrief + Results)

The Committee reviewed the results of the items that David collected on May 9<sup>th</sup> from the ditches of Union Road. It was noted that staff did not take a detailed report of all items collected along Hawkins Road but Catherine had taken various pictures which she will share with staff via email. Valerie questioned how we can expand this event next year to get more people involved? The Committee discussed offering a challenge with the communication next year – this will be added to the agenda early 2024.

### Neighbours Day – Movie in the Park

Catherine brought this event forward to the Committee for review – it is a movie night, organized by a community group from Kitchener. She questioned how we can achieve similar participation and engagement for our events? Catherine will reach out to the community group to see if they have any ideas or insight to share.

### World Environment Day

The Committee agreed to add this item to the next meeting agenda.

### **Standing Items**

Review of SWOX 2030 Action Item List (minutes of August 12th, 2015 meeting)

1. Social Responsibility
2. Communication
3. Active Living
4. Safety & Security

### **New Business**

#### Strategic Planning (Summary of Feedback)

Julie presented four slides containing a proposed vision, mission, values and priorities/pillars for the Township in relation to the formation of a new strategic plan. She noted this information was pulled from the strategic planning survey and community conversations sessions. The Senior Management team is meeting later this afternoon to have a similar discussion. Julie requested that if Committee Members have any additional feedback, they can communicate it via email. The next steps are for staff to connect with the consultants to further examine the preliminary feedback and data. Council will also meet in special session on June 27, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss this in more detail and provide specific items they wish to accomplish/achieve under each priority area.

*Catherine left the meeting at 2:08 p.m.*

### **Slide 1: Vision Statement**

The following alternatives/suggestions were provided:

- A safe, secure and accessible place to be!
- A safe, secure and accessible place to belong.
- A safe, secure and accessible place to stay.
- A safe, secure and accessible place to live, work and play.
- A welcoming, safe, secure and accessible place to be.

### **Slide 2: Mission Statement**

It was noted that the purpose of the mission statement is to outline our aspirations with our vision. The Committee suggested the following mission statement: *“To responsibly serve our residents, with integrity and care – and to encourage an environment where everyone feels they belong.”*

### **Slide 3: Values**

The Committee discussed the values listed – these were the top 6 responses from the strategic planning survey. David questioned if we should select the values of residents, or of the municipality (staff/Council)? Julie noted that the values should be what the organization stands for.

The Committee suggested the following values:

- Accountability
- Trust and Integrity
- Care and Compassion
- Transparency
- Responsibility
- Sustainability

### **Slide 4: Priorities/Pillars**

The four suggested priorities/pillars were discussed with the following changes proposed:

- An Informed and Engaged Community
- An Active and Healthy Community
- A Connected Community
- A Sustainable and Responsible/Secure Community

### **Adjournment**

The Engage and Inform Committee adjourned at 2:47 p.m. to tentatively meet again on **Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chamber.**