

Mississippi Mills Residents' Association

Board of Directors, Minutes of Meeting, July 17, 2006, 7:30 pm; Market2World Comm Boardroom

In attendance: George Yaremchuk, Jill McCubbin, Al Seaman, Shaun McLaughlin, Arnie Francis

Regrets: Marnie Bruce, Stewart Yeaman, Mike Boire

1. Election of Executive

As this was the first meeting of the new Board, the following individuals agreed to serve:

- President: Arnie Francis
- Vice President: George Yaremchuk
- Treasurer: Jill McCubbin
- Secretary: (to be decided)
- Membership: Al Seaman
- Communications: Shaun McLaughlin

2. Treasurer's Report

Jill reported on MMRA Bank balance at June 30/06:

- \$1453, less Gazette AGM ads <\$276> for total of \$1177.
- Some stale-dated cheques (approx \$100) – Jill to pursue replacements

3. Municipal Election Strategy

Key dates:

- Nominations close: Friday, September 29/06
- MMRA communications – ready mid-September
- MMRA communications – distributed early October
- All-candidates meeting: around mid-late October
- Election date: Monday, November 13/06 (Mail-in ballots allowed)

Potential Issues for the Election:

- Pesticides By-Law (ref Bill Slade, Pauline Donaldson, Peter Egan, Mike Caughey)
- Sewage Plan, user fees, etc (Al is following)
- Transparency in Council
- Committees of Council – diminished?
- Sunday Hunting
- Boundary Issues
- Environment hazard zones
- Power generation, site, where's rural benefit, etc (George to explore)
- Preservation of downtown (ref Nathan Rudyk)
- De-amalgamation: letter that Carleton County Group has that suggests towns can de-amalgamate if council proposes.
- Ottawa Street - \$2m outlay, little signage for downtown Almonte, Pakenham, etc
- Youth issues
- Clean Water Act as potential rural issue – town can fund or say no! (Shaun is following)

4. Municipal Election Communication plan

Shaun is to lead Board's communication effort to develop strategy - will pull in help as needed (e.g. Dan W):

- Plan and research (by mid-August)
 - Generate Fact Sheets for issues
 - MMRA Logo – Shaun to explore, redesign, etc
 - See if we can find the MMRA material/pamphlets/the Watch Dog issue (ask Steve Reside?) from the 2003 elections (**George**)

- Call for membership support
 - Raise funds: Don't be shy about asking membership and others for funds to help build discussion
- Distribution system: Hardcopy at drop-off points (***George to find list***), e-mail, website
 - Email to membership: Provide email list to Al and Shaun (***George***); use the MMRA Yahoo Group
 - ensure use “bcc” to avoid disclosure of e-mail addresses
 - The Hub sponsors the “All Candidates debate” – MMRA has volunteered to help in the past

5. Membership

Need membership drive – Al to obtain e-mail list from George

- e-mail to go out (Shaun to word craft communiqué), covering:
 - AGM – MMRA alive and well!
 - Board issues
 - Renewal request

6. Next meeting

Sunday, July 30 7:00 pm (tentatively).