

Minutes from June 25 Meeting, Mississippi Mills Residence Association

In attendance: Jill Mc, Arnie, David, Shaun, Amanda
Meeting commenced at 7:40pm

1. Introductions: Arnie initiated round table introductions.
2. Approval of previous minutes: Motioned by Shaun, passed by Jill.
3. Appointments to positions: Arnie confirmed all previously tentative positions with the exception of a change to David's title. Instead of VP (Strategy) it will be Director (Strategy). The following roles were approved by the board:
Arnie-President (communications and membership)
Shaun-Treasurer
Amanda-Secretary
Bill-Director (Rural)
Jill-Director (Urban)
George-Director (Webmaster)
4. Presidents Report:
 - 4.1 Pesticide Bylaw: Discussion of bringing this topic back to the forefront. It has appeared on the yahoo discussion board as well as recently in the gazette. Jill supports the initiative and raised the point that all topics for action should be discussed before making decisions on which initiatives to champion. Arnie suggested that Pauline be involved to report to us what the EAC is/has been doing with the 10000 budget for education. Arnie later stated that he will invite the chair of the EAC to our next board meeting to discuss. David suggested having a working group to pursue the pesticide issue. Amanda suggested collecting a petition and Jill explained that this has been done before by the EAC. Shaun explained that the previous petition when presented to council but the decision to ban pesticides was tabled at the council meeting. Shaun suggested that this issue may not be appropriate to push onto the rural community and it was agreed that going forward we would recommend the pesticide ban for the ward of Almonte.
 - 4.1.1 David spoke of the importance of lobbying, and making direct contact with our councilors. Motivating the MMRA membership to do so could have profound effect and support our initiatives greatly.
 - 4.1.2 Jill spoke of having someone from the MMRA membership attending council meetings and all council sub-committee meetings. Amanda mentioned that if getting someone to commit to attending just one sub committee meeting, taking notes, and then commit to attending the following MMRA meeting to report back. Arnie mentioned he wouldn't mind following up with the finance sub-committee and Shaun said that the finance and the planning committees are the two most important to focus on.
 - 4.2: Membership initiatives
 - Walking Bus originally suggested by Reva Dolgoy, letter sent out to elementary schools June 19th.
 - 4.2.1 River Keeper

Peter Fedirchuck suggestion that MMRA should sponsor a talk from the Ottawa River Keeper. Arnie told Peter we would sponsor the initiative if Peter were to organize it. No word from Peter to date.

4.3 Yahoo Discussion group: It was reported that the group is now open for all MM residents and not just MMRA members. Arnie mentioned that although there are 50 odd participants of the discussion group, it is frequently the same few posting, and it would be refreshing to have increased participation from others. It was discussed whether the efforts of maintaining such a site for discussion was value added and the point of whether this type of forum, *electronic and exclusive to yahoo, was appropriate for the times. Jill voiced that the discussion group has a wider reach than the 50 speakers and mentioned that at times topics initiated on the yahoo discussion group were brought forward at town meetings, and even at times draw the attention and participation of the mayor himself. Shaun supported this argument by noting that the buzz of small discussions and discontentment is what leads to greater action such as what happened with the appleton group. David agreed and commented that it took something big to happen in the community of appleton before others were motivated to make change. It was agreed that the forum of the yahoo discussion group should continue to be supported by the MMRA. Arnie will action George Yaremchuck to give a step by step on how to register online to connect to the discussion group. All board were asked to promote participation and to contribute as well.

4.4 Membership, marginal response after 3 separate reminders have gone out. It was discussed that participation from MM residents is the focus, not the membership and so Arnie will not be flogging the membership as aggressively to collect dues.

5.0 Other business

6.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by David.