

MINUTES
WOODLOT COMMITTEE

October 6, 2009

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Chair Wm. Bilton, Warden Jim Burns. Members: B. MacDougall and G. Perry. Also present were Secretary-Treasurer D. Posliff, Deputy-Secretary-Treasurer T. Dewsbury, Woodlot Inspector C. Nauta and J. Kutyba.

Absent

None.

J. Kutyba outlined the agenda which contained two motions from County Council that evolved from his report dated September 3, 2009 and the presentation by representatives from Wellington County regarding their Green Legacy Programme.

He asked members if they wished to develop a project similar to the Green Legacy Programme in Lambton County. The question was asked if the County of Lambton Woodlands Conservation By-law addresses this issue. C. Nauta replied that the by-law was going to be reviewed and revised during the winter months.

J. Kutyba stated that if the County was to develop a programme like Wellington County he feels a champion would be needed in order to move it forward. He also questioned staffing requirements.

B. MacDougall stated that she had spoken with Mark Van Patter, Wellington County, at the AMO conference. She has interest in this area and would like to see the County of Lambton develop a similar type of programme that would help increase the tree cover. She does not want this project, if developed, to become onerous on staff. She believes that there is capacity in the community to harness the energy needed that could therefore be developed into partnerships. She stated that some organizations are looking for a new venture to enter into that would help build up the community. She used the Trails Initiative as one example as it is comprised of a number of different groups. She feels that partnerships can be built and used to help find federal funds to assist with the ongoing problem of climate change and the subsequent impact on local trees. She said that renewing and building upon the current tree cover is necessary now more than ever due to the Emerald Ash Borer devastation.

B. MacDougall offered to become the champion of a new programme as she feels political leadership is needed to move forward on this very worthy project. She will set aside time to work on this. She stated that it might not develop with the same shape and format

as Wellington County but she can foresee some form of their programme being developed for Lambton County. She would like to visit Wellington County to talk to persons involved with the Green Legacy Programme and see their operation.

G. Perry agreed with B. MacDougall and stated that there has to be dialogue with Wellington County. He likes the mission statement that Wellington County developed and thought perhaps some form of it could be used in Lambton. He feels that baby steps need to be taken to proceed with this project and perhaps the first step could explore what land the County owns that could possibly be used for plantings.

B. MacDougall referred to the County of Lambton Woodlands Conservation By-law and questioned if there was opportunity within it to work with different companies regarding cash in lieu of parkland fees or exemptions that could be used to ask for help. She feels that corporate leadership is needed and stated that a partnership with the local conservation authorities would also be beneficial. She wondered whether Wellington County would be willing to act as a mentor in this project. She stated that valuable information has been amassed from developing the County Trail System and this, along with help from interested municipalities, could be used. Wm. Bilton mentioned that there are many agencies that might be willing to help such as Lambton Rural Stewardship and Carolinian Canada.

J. Kutyba stated that a partnership with St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is already in place. He feels that this project contains a large scope of work and it needs to be narrowed down to a few significant items.

B. MacDougall stated that Draft Terms of Reference should be the first item to be developed and suggested that a meeting be scheduled to develop this. J. Kutyba will prepare some background information for that meeting and suggested that a representative from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be invited. He will contact R. Coe to see if he can attend and B. MacDougall will contact Mark Van Patter, Wellington County, to see if he can attend.

J. Kutyba suggested that it might be fruitful to obtain Mission Statements from other organizations instead of trying to draft one from scratch. He distributed a newsletter from Carolinian Canada to committee members. D. Posliff stated that a Natural Heritage Study is being done and will be coming to committee in October. He indicated that this has been worked on by a number of different partners.

B. MacDougall feels that a revenue stream must be developed and the issue of self sustainability, in order not to burden the taxpayers of Lambton County, was discussed.

It was decided that a meeting will be scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in order to develop Draft Terms of Reference. B. MacDougall, D. Posliff, and J. Kutyba will attend.

Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Wm. Bilton
Chair

Terrie Dewsbury
Deputy-Secretary-Treasurer