



Municipality of  
Dutton Dunwich

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **JANUARY 19, 2022 – WEBEX MEETING**

**Type of Meeting:** Monthly  
**Location:** Virtually Online - Webex  
**Present:** Councillor Amarilis Drouillard, Jessica Small, Cherity McAlpine, Stephanie Vanderburgt, Jenna Anderson, Jeff Woods, Dianne Purcell, Jennifer Babcock  
**Regrets:** Brad Tunks, Brenda Patterson

### **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

**RC 2022.01.01      MOVED by Cherity McAlpine SECONDED by Amarilis THAT the meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich opens at 7:05 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

### **INTRODUCTION TO RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Recreation Committee did a quick introduction of themselves, their background, and what their skill sets are to contribute to Recreation Committee.

Jessica and Councilor Amarilis summarized the who, what, where, when and why of Recreation Committee for the group. In summary, Recreation Committee is a group of community members whose mandate is to serve the community through recreation, community and cultural programs in the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich at all times of the year. We exist so that we can make the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich an even better place to live, work and play.

### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

As this was the first meeting of the Recreation Committee, members decided to defer this appointment until a later date once members settle into their role.

### **GRANTS & FUNDRAISING**

#### **Seniors Grant(s)**

##### **New Horizons for Seniors Grant**

The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich was awarded the [New Horizons for Seniors Grant](#) in the amount of \$25,000 for Community based projects. Program objectives are as follows:

- Promote volunteerism among seniors and other generations
- Engage seniors in the community through the mentoring of others
- Expand awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse
- Support the social participation and inclusion of seniors

- Provide capital assistance for new and existing community projects and programs for seniors

Committee Members decided on a series of educational events for Seniors on different pertinent topics. Details:

- JOY Club [Just Older Youth]
- Snacks and beverages would be provided.
- Each event would feature either an instructional session or a guest speaker.
- Events would be held bi-monthly or monthly at the Dutton Dunwich Community Centre [pending COVID restrictions].
- Potential Topics:
  - “How to” Digital Skills – Email 101, Smartphone/Tablet Skills, Avoiding Scammers – Stephanie is able to run these programs
  - Preparing for End of Life – POA, Funeral Preparations, Speaker Idea: Sue Vandendries or Bill Denning
  - Financial Planning
  - Cooking Classes
  - Mental Health
  - Health & Wellness
  - Yoga Fitness, Chair Fit
  - Entertainment – ie. Walter Osternack
  - Senior Safety – Dianne mentioned the Seniors Club had an OPP Officer come in to speak about scamming and insurance, driver’s licenses, etc and it was very well received
- Partner with WECHC on providing Transportation to the events.
- Audience Outreach – Seniors Centre [136 members], Caledonia 1 & 2, WECHC, Bobier Villa

**ACTIONS:**

- Stephanie to put together ideas for Digital Skill topics
- Jenny to reach out to WECHC for information on other programs and transportation options
- Jeff to reach out to caterers and service groups once we have more concrete details
- Jessica to confirm what parameters there are for the grant – ie. When funds need to be used and what they can be used for

**Seniors Community Grant Program**

The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich was awarded the [New Horizons for Seniors Grant](#) for fitness equipment in the amount of \$25,000 for Community based projects.

Ideas discussed:

- Outdoor equipment to add to the existing equipment by the splash pad and/or along the walking path
- Contact: Jen Johnson – contact for more equipment – balance stretching, along the walking path

**ACTIONS:**

- Jenny to send Jessing contact information for Jen Johnson
- Jessica to confirm what parameters there are for the grant – ie. When funds need to be used and what they can be used for

## **Celebrate Canada – Canada Day & National Indigenous People’s Day**

Due to COVID-19 celebrations for Canada Day 2020 and 2021 were postponed. Recreation is extremely hopeful that celebrations for 2022 will be possible at full capacity.

Similar activities and events as in previous years are planned to take place for Canada Day Celebrations in 2022. The location for the Fireworks were moved in 2020 to the Wallacetown Fairgrounds due to new housing development being too close to the traditional location. With success of the Lighting of the Lights fireworks display solidifies this as a good plan.

Additionally, Recreation would like to host an annual event for National Indigenous People’s Day. An initial meeting between the Recreation & Youth Centre Supervisor from Oneida Nation of the Thames, Sarah Hill and Recreation & Administration Assistant took place on November 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss potential ideas and gauge potential interest.

Initial ideas included an Indigenous Marketplace where crafters and service providers can attend and showcase their wares. As well as a focus on cultural education and learning by offering activities for children and youth, Indigenous entertainment, demonstrations of Indigenous culture and tastings of traditional Indigenous food [ie. Bannock].

Sarah was eager to take the ideas back to the community to discuss. Many independent Indigenous businesses have suffered during COVID-19 and Sarah believes there will be significant interest in participating.

One item to note is that June 21<sup>st</sup> is an Indigenous holiday where the community travels to London and surrounding areas to participate in local festivities. Recreation is proposing that the Municipality event take place on the Saturday prior to National Indigenous People’s Day, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Commemorate Canada Reopening Fund**

The Celebration and Commemoration Program — Reopening Fund is a 1 year funding initiative, available through the Celebration and Commemoration Program, will provide funding to eligible recipients to support initiatives that meet 1 or more of the following requirements:

- increase opportunities for Canadians to participate in various commemorative activities and celebrations to mark Canada’s emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic
- build a sense of pride and belonging to Canada by holding celebratory and commemorative activities that recognize people and achievements in the response to COVID-19
- support the revival of local economies through in person events

The deadline for the application was January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Councillor Drouillard and Recreation sat down to brainstorm initial thoughts and ideas which accomplishes all of the requirements.

“COVID Community Kindness” – Crowd sourced call for nominations for individuals who stepped up during the pandemic to make a difference in our community and the lives of others in our community

Once all stories are collected, each nominee and close friends and family members [who fit criteria – to be determined] would be interviewed and a professional video would be produced to tell each story

A “Celebrating COVID Kindness” event will take place where video would be screened, speeches made by community members and those nominated; A true marking of emerging from the pandemic. The event would also be videotaped and added to the final video.

Scope would encompass Dutton Dunwich and West Elgin. The intent is to get support from West Elgin council prior to submitting the application

Recreation Committees from both Municipalities would support the project and event.

Committee loves the idea. Another idea is to reach out to Graydon Lange who works for discovery to produce the video or other local media personal to be a guest speaker/Emcee at the event.

### **Fire Department 50/50**

Seeing the success of other Volunteer Fire Departments, Recreation Committee is interested in holding an online 50/50 draw in the community. Jessica has reached out to the online draw provide used by Bothwell Fire Fighters Association, a company called Bump for more information.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Jessica to report back on information from Bump and reach out to Fire Fighter’s Association for support

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & PROJECTS**

#### **Buttermilk Bog Tree Identification Project**

Council approved funding for the Buttermilk Bog Tree Identification project.

Recreation Committee Member, Marg Hulls has been working on project to identify all species in Buttermilk Bog with the intention of tagging them with their common and scientific names.

It is also important to note the challenge which has surfaced with memorial tree requests in Buttermilk Bog. The challenge being that the current Memorial Tree By-Law does not currently offer an option to select an existing tree for a memorial plaque. Buttermilk Bog is a popular area for memorial tree requests unfortunately there simply is not enough space to continue to plant new trees. However there are plenty of beautiful existing tree options for memorial plaques.

Prior to the holidays, Marg Hulls, Recreation and the Roads Department met to discuss the project and a collaborative solution to both the tree identification project and memorial tree plaques was proposed.

The idea is to produce NEW metal stands for at least 1 tree of each currently identified specie. Each stand will feature a small 3" x 1" identification tag for the common and scientific name of the species as well as a space for a 3" x 4" memorial plaque for any previous and future memorial trees. Similar to picture featured here.

There are currently (58) individual identified species in Buttermilk Bog which would require NEW stands and identification tags and there are (12) existing memorial plaques in Buttermilk Bog which would need to be reproduced. They are made of wood and are rotted or have fallen over.

Marg reached out to DRC welding to produce the stands for a cost of \$35 each. Deputy Mayor, Mike Hentz has offered to paint the stands [cost of materials to be confirmed]. Roseanne Murray will produce the identification tags for \$8 each and the memorial plaques for \$20 each. The Roads Department suggested attaching the tags and plaques with pins and Roseanne has suggested industrial double-sided tape. These are both viable options.

Marg has reached out to the West Elgin Nature Fund [which will be folding in the coming months] for funding for all of the identification tags.

### **ReLEAF Program**

Annual ReLEAF Program is underway. Pick-up day is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> and volunteer support from the Recreation Committee is welcome!

The ReLEAF Program aims to enhance environmental and health benefits in the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich by inspiring, educating and empowering residents to plant and care for trees and to be part of a sustainability-focused future for our community.

Partnering with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, the ReLEAF program goal was to plant a tree for every resident in Dutton Dunwich and we surpassed that goal in both 2020 and 2021!

See webpage for full detail and ReLEAF order form attached.

#### What trees are available?

Sapling trees of various native Carolinian species, conifers, deciduous, and wildlife shrubs will be available to purchase by pre-order ONLY. Unfortunately, due to supply, large tree varieties are not available this year.

#### How do I order?

Email your form to [jsmall@duttondunwich.on.ca](mailto:jsmall@duttondunwich.on.ca) OR drop off at the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich at 199 Currie Rd, Dutton by the deadline January 31st, 2022.

An invoice will be sent with further instructions on how to pickup orders.

#### What is the deadline?

All orders must be submitted by January 31st, 2022.



Orders are subject to supply availability. Any orders not available will be removed from your order.

How do I pay?

Payments will be process on pick-up day on May 8th. We accept Debit, Cash and Cheque [made out to the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich].

When, Where and How do I get my trees?

Orders will be available for pick-up Sunday May 8th 2022 at the Dutton Dunwich Community Centre. Final Orders and pick-up information will be emailed out prior to pick-up day.

**Tree Stump Project**

An idea was brought to Recreation from a community member to jazz up the tree stumps within the community. The idea was to carve them into something. Committee discussed other ideas including painting [ie Checkers] or creating flower beds. The Wallacetown Optimist Club has a group of youth who have painted the skate park in West Lorne and have plans to paint a wall at the Wallacetown Fairgrounds. They would be interested in painting the stumps if the Municipality supplied the materials.

**ACTIONS:**

- Jessica to reach out to Cyril Heidt and Doug Jennings for pricing

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Checks**

Vulnerable Sector Criminal Record Check letters were sent out on January 19<sup>th</sup> for completion by all committee members. Currently the OPP Office is open Mon – Fri – 8:00am – 3:30pm. Potentially when restrictions are lifted, hours will change. No appointments necessary.

**ACTION:** All committee members to submit a vulnerable sector criminal record check to the Municipality.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE**

**RC 2022.01.02      MOVED by Dianne Purcell SECONDED by Jeff Woods THAT the next meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich will take place on February 16, at 7:00 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**RC 2022.01.03      MOVED by Jeff Woods SECONDED by Cherity McAlpine THAT the meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich closes at 8:34 p.m.**

**CARRIED**