

Minutes
West Oro Ratepayers (WORA)
9th Annual General Meeting
October 13, 2012

WORA's 2012 annual general meeting was held on Saturday, October 13, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at St. Thomas Church Hall, Line 2, Oro-Medonte (O-M) Township. Approximately 40 people attended.

Welcome (Domenic Natale)

Domenic Natale, WORA Vice-President, chaired the meeting and began by welcoming members and guests: Mayor Harry Hughes; Councillor John Crawford, Ward 4; Councillor Marty Lancaster, Ward 3; Ann Truyens and Sandy Agnew from AWARE; Tim Crooks from Rescue Lake Simcoe; and guest speaker Charles Pachter. Dave Morris, former Secretary and Angela Phillips, former Director of WORA along with Advisory Board members Bob Fournier (absent) and Anne Golden (present) were also recognized. Bruce Stanton, MP, sent his regrets.

Domenic noted that WORA has grown since inception in 2004. With its record of listening to its members, conducting research when necessary, engaging professionals as required and taking action, it is recognized as a strong, credible voice in the community. He directed members to WORA's revamped website at www.wora.ca.

The following members of the Executive introduced themselves: Ron Golden, President, Michael Higgins, Vice President, Kelly Lazar, Treasurer, Ted Bigelow, Susan Woods and Gail Raikes, Directors.

Domenic acknowledged Gail Raikes' resignation and thanked her for her work on the Executive.

Mayor Harry Hughes' Comments

Mayor Hughes noted that Council has been busy and effective and working well together. His notes outlined on his handout and answers to audience questions are as follows:

Road Paving - Fewer than 50 km of Twp. gravel roads are left to surface with asphalt, saving money and environmental impact of constant oiling. Bay St. in Shanty Bay is on the radar for improvement.

Parking and Boat Ramp - Improvements have been made to lake access parking at Carthew Bay and installation of no parking signs along both sides of roads in the Shanty Bay area. At the 9th line, the boat ramp is permanent.

Couchiching Conservancy - Donation of land in Shanty Bay village to the Conservancy is very near completion.

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Nurse Practitioner Clinic - Clinic is up and running at the 4th line and Horseshoe Valley Rd.

Waste Management – O-M Landfill Site will be at capacity in five to seven years. Council is continuing studies before final determination of sites for recycling construction material products.

Airport - The airport is busy and profitable.

Mayor's Responses to Audience Questions

Bike Lane on Shanty Bay Road - Shanty Bay Road (Ridge Road) is the responsibility of Simcoe County, not O-M Twp. It also is not the regulation width of 66 feet; therefore, the addition of a bike lane is difficult. As an alternative to using Shanty Bay Road, bike riders can use the Rail Trail and the Mayor is looking into improving the surface of the Trail for bike riding.

Oro-Medonte Official Plan Public Consultations - Simcoe County's official plan needs to be in place before public consultations can begin in approximately two years for what will be the O-M official plan.

Election of WORA Officers (Domenic Natale)

Two positions on the Executive were filled, one came open and one was an addition. Moved by Ted Bigelow, seconded by Susan Woods. Bill Forster and Karen Oliver were nominated. Motion carried. The Executive will determine their role.

Financial Report (Kelly Lazar)

Kelly Lazar, Treasurer, presented the financial report with copies available to those present. WORA has started a fundraising campaign to replenish funds spent on consultants over the past year. Our current bank balance is \$15,000.00 Moved by Kelly Lazar, seconded by Domenic Natale, the financial statements were adopted and CMW Management Limited was re-appointed auditor.

President's Report (Ron Golden)

Ron Golden's report provided an update on Big Bay Point, UCCI and Gull Rock Marina, with specific focus on one key issue: TRY Recycling Inc.'s application to Oro-Medonte Twp. to operate a construction recycling site on the Oro Moraine on Line 7 near the Old Barrie Road. WORA is committed to recycling but does not approve of the location or the manner in which Council has undertaken approvals of this site.

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WORA has taken action to investigate the application to the MOE by employing consultants to carry out research on the viability of the site for construction waste and to conduct a peer review of the technical reports prepared by TRY Recycling's Advisor, Golder Associates Ltd. Several concerns and gaps in the technical reports have come to light:

The proposed site is on the Oro Moraine, 45 ft above the aquifer that supplies all our drinking water. The recycling will take place on bare ground, not a concrete pad nor a building, a potential threat to our drinking water.

Oro-Medonte signed a multi year lease with TRY (in fact we believe they are business partners in the project) to operate and profit from the site and in WORA's eyes has a conflict of interest in the process of rezoning the site. O-M signed the lease with TRY, then made changes to the Zoning Bylaw and Official Plan.

O-M relied on the proponent's studies to approve the site. WORA subsequently hired their own consultants who found TRY Recycling's studies relied upon by O-M to be "sloppy and incomplete." This forced WORA to commission third party peer reviewed critiques of TRY's proposal which O-M Council should have done but failed to provide.

O-M taxpayers are paying twice in this situation: once through their taxes and again through donations to WORA to carry out their own studies to do the work that O-M Council should be doing on the project.

Still under review for the site is a provincial Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Certificate of Approval. Some of WORA's Executive have met with Ministry officials to make WORA's position known. WORA is committed to continue to work towards a solution including finding an appropriate site.

WORA is following the Friday Harbour development at Big Bay Point where the developer is trying to buy provincial land on either side of the 200 ft of lakeshore owned by the developer.

Ratification of Executive's Actions

Lauren Natale moved a motion to ratify the actions of the WORA Executive. Seconded by Tim Crooks. Motion passed.

Mayors' Response (Harry Hughes)

Mayor Hughes was asked to comment on the status of Ontario Recycling located at 18 Small Crescent. He replied that Ontario Recycling had abandoned the site and that they are still indebted to Oro-Medonte Township for \$12,000.00.

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Mayor Hughes noted that all Council members live in Oro-Medonte, drink the water, and are committed to finding the best site for the recycling facility.

He was not aware of our studies and asked for access to them. According to Ron the studies are on the MOE website.

He assured those present that Council had not made a final decision and that there is a parachute clause built into the Lease Agreement with TRY Recycling.

Keynote Address

Anne Golden introduced our guest speaker, Charles Pachter: noted Canadian Artist, Historian, visionary known for his iconic work, brilliant writer and Officer of the Order of Canada.

Charles enlightened and entertained us with a visual presentation of his works and anecdotes of his most interesting life in which art has played a key role. Early in his career, he played around with images of Canadian iconography - the moose, the flag. By doing so, he was debunking the mythology of post-colonial Canadian life that we can't create our own icons and that art is important only if it comes from "elsewhere."

His work has not been without controversy as some do not find amusing his images of the Queen riding a moose, one of several works symbolizing Canada's relationship with the Crown.

The Canadian flag series completed in 1981 just after the announcement of the repatriation of the Constitution comprises some of his most well-known pieces. Charles kindly donated several prints to WORA for auction that were quickly purchased by interested art lovers.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

(Please see Mayor Harry Hughes' full email clarification below, which was submitted following the meeting).

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From: Hughes, Harry
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 11:06 AM
To: 'gailraikes@gmail.com'
Cc: Leigh, Andria; Dunn, Robin
Subject: Correction Re: Ontario Recycling

Hello Gail:

At the WORA meeting I was asked a question that was not on the list of items that I had prepared to speak to. I provided list to you prior to the meeting.

The question that was asked from the floor had to do with the status of Ontario Recycling. The answer that I provided was based on the last update that was provided to council. Since that time I followed up with staff. As a result, I learned that the update regarding the status of the account that I provided was not current.

Staff confirmed that Ontario Recycling's Account has been paid in full.

To ensure that all of council was brought up to date I asked that for a staff to provide an update in open session at our last council meeting. It was attended by the public including some members of WORA.

It would be most appreciated if you could attach a note of correction to the minutes of the WORA meeting to help ensure that the information regarding Ontario Recycling's account with the Township is made current and confirm that the account is paid in full.

Along with apologies I wish extend my appreciation for the extra efforts necessary on your part as secretary in this regard.

Thanks

Mayor

Harry Hughes