



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, May 28, 2013, 7p.m.

55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd Floor)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public will be provided an opportunity to ask questions of the Committee during this time. (Limited to 10 minutes)

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –May 28, 2013 – ITEM #1
Potential Transfer Station

Councillor Bill Hill requested discussion on concerns regarding waste other than household waste and the Township of Melancthon's previous letter regarding the potential for a northern transfer station.

REPORTS

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – May 28, 2013 – ITEM #2
DEEP Update - May 2013

A report from the Director of Public Works dated May 28, 2013 to provide the Committee with a status update of each component of the Dufferin Eco-Energy Park (DEEP) project.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works dated May 28, 2013 with respect to DEEP Update be received.

CORRESPONDENCE

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE –May 28, 2013 – ITEM #3
Resident of Mulmur – Waste Disposal

Correspondence dated May 16, 2013 from a resident of the Township of Mulmur requesting the County to consider that the empty plastic bags from various items purchased for the home, be re-used for garbage containment instead of clear bags.

Recommendation:

For consideration of the Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 – 7 p.m.
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room



**REPORT TO
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

To: Chair Taylor and Members of Committee
From: Scott C. Burns, Director of Public Works
Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 28th, 2013
Subject: **DEEP Update – May 2013**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with a status update of each component of the Dufferin Eco-Energy Park (DEEP) project.

Background & Discussion

Alter NRG – Gasification/Energy from Waste:

Following the last Community Development Committee meeting, Staff were contacted by Mr. Ken Willis, President of Alter NRG, with notification of their pursuing a new potential investor for the proposed Energy from Waste (EFW) facility. Mr. Willis went on to explain that the full intentions and commitment of this potential investor should be confirmed by mid to late June, 2013. The County will be kept informed of any advancements.

The County's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Alter NRG expired this past December 31st, 2012.

CCI Bio-Energy – Anaerobic Digestion/Bio-Energy:

Through discussions at the last Community Development Committee with Mr. Kevin Mattews, President of Canada Composting Inc. (CCI), Mr. Mattews expressed continued frustration with changes to the Ontario Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program. These changes have rendered the proposed Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plant incapable of generating sufficient revenue to be sustainable.

The Option-to-Lease Agreement between the County and CCI expires this coming June 30th, 2013.

York Region – Source Separated Organics/Composting:

York Region continues to pursue the DEEP site as the preferred location for the proposed Source Separated Organics (SSO) facility. The revised MOU between the County and York Region, originally anticipated in January 2013, is now expected during the second/third quarter of the year. York is working towards completing a Functional Servicing Report to further investigate the site's suitability, as well as to determine any additional servicing requirements needed for the project. Upon completion of the report, a more thorough knowledge of required infrastructure to support the construction, operation and maintenance of the facility will be gained.

Through a follow-up discussion with York Staff, continued interest in an Option Agreement for the 14.5 ha parcel of land for the SSO facility has been made with consideration towards an outright purchase of the land. They also intend to have the land valuated, for consideration moving forward.

The County's current MOU with York Region is ongoing.

Local Municipal Impact

There is no immediate local impact.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

The responsibility for, and cost of preparing, infrastructure and services external to the overall site boundaries of the DEEP, would be upon the County of Dufferin if/when the project moves forward.

Recommendation

THAT Report DEEP Update – May 2013, from the Director of Public Works, dated May 28th, 2013 be received.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Burns
Director of Public Works

May 16, 2013

Community Development Committee
Allen Taylor, Chair

I am writing with respect to waste disposal in Dufferin County and to suggest a simple and effective way to significantly reduce garbage and which would also address the privacy issue that is featured in an article in today's *Toronto Star*.

http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/05/16/clear_garbage_bag_policy_sparks_uproar_in_dufferin_county.html

Since Mulmur Township has had garbage pickup our family has used empty dog food bags, cat litter bags and grain bags. We obtained permission first from the Township which had the foresight to see that using such bags significantly reduced garbage going to the dump and was a good way to reuse items that would otherwise be thrown out in a garbage bag. We don't securely close the top of the bag allowing those collecting the garbage to see what is inside if they so choose.

Not only does using these bags reduce the garbage as they are the refuse container and not the garbage inside it, but these bags are typically significantly smaller than the transparent garbage bags sold commercially. And they are more durable. Often I've seen clear garbage bags that were put out the morning of pickup that had been ripped open leaving garbage strewn on the side of the road (which eventually is blown elsewhere). In all the years that we've used empty dog food bags (and similar bags) we have never had this problem.

Not only do we not use large clear garbage bags but we also don't buy smaller bags for garbage choosing to collect garbage in containers such as empty milk cartons, the bag our local newspaper comes in and similar containers. Doing this allows us to reuse items which reduces our garbage by at least four plastic garbage bags (one large and three small) each week.

While this reduction may not seem like much it results in our family not using an additional 208 plastic bags a year. Assuming there are approximately 20,000 households (there are actually more as well as businesses) in Dufferin County there is the potential to divert more than 4 million plastic bags every year from Dufferin's waste.

Admittedly, not everyone will have access to the bags that we use each week, but many will as more than 50% of Canadians have animal companions so there are lots of dog and cat food bags along with cat litter bags out there. Dufferin County has lots of farms and bags used for grain, bedding and other items for large animals also work very well. Even people who don't have animals will likely have lots of ideal, but not conventional, garbage containers in the form of empty bags that once contained things like bird seed, garden soil, mulch and similar items used for landscaping. Throwing these bags *in* the garbage when they make ideal garbage bags is not responsibly dealing with our garbage problem.

Garbage collection doesn't have to be a complicated matter. Some might suggest to use a garbage can to put refuse in but in the country these are often not practical and they can be dangerous. Leaving these empty containers beside roads for a day, or more, where wind and snow plows often blow them onto the roads creates a dangerous situation.

Some people have permanent garbage bins near the road but these too use valuable materials to build and need to be replaced after a relatively short life. We're supposed to be using resources wisely and minimizing garbage. Our road is next to a snowmobile trail making such permanent fixtures not possible.

For several years we have put our garbage out, without incident, in durable bags that were originally created to hold dog food and similar items. Not only did they adequately hold the garbage, they protected it from rain, snow and animals.

While I realize that there needs to be rules, sometimes it is necessary to be innovative, to think outside the bin if you will, to achieve the goal - in this case significant garbage reduction. The bags that we use address the privacy issue while making use of two of the three R's (the most important two) *reduce* and *reuse*.

Mulmur Township was proactive in this matter I would hope that Dufferin County will be too. All it takes is informing the waste management company that these "reused" bags are permitted.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

N. Glenn Perrett
Mulmur, Ontario