



FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
55 Zina Street, Orangeville

The Committee met at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville at 6.00 p.m.

Members Present: Councillor Laura Ryan (Chair)
Councillor Geoff Dunlop (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)
Al Buck (Public member)
Colleen Mitchell (Public member)
John Riley (Public member)
Anne-Marie Roussy (Public member)
Johnny Yeaman (Public member)

Members Absent: Councillor Heather Hayes (prior notice)

Staff Present: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer
Darrell Keenie, DCMA General Manager
Caroline Mach, County Forest Manager
Michelle Dunne, Deputy Clerk

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 6.00 p.m.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members (None)

1. Introductions

Welcome and introduction of the Chair and Committee. Each member of the Committee gave a brief introduction of themselves along with staff members. Chair Ryan gave an overview of mandate of the committee.

Councillor Dunlop arrived (6:06 p.m.)

2. Orientation Presentation

Staff provided an overview of the Background Report on the Forest Operation Review Committee. Ms. Caroline Mach gave a brief overview of the County Forest, size, location and history of each tract.

Ms. Mach noted that the goal of County Forest management has remained the same since 1995: To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

3. Discussion

The Chair led the Committee in a discussion of the following:

- a. Identification of needs for additional information
- b. Process moving forward

The Committee asked staff to provide them with the following information:

- Budget and financial information – including what is available in reserves
- Draft Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2015-2035
- Draft Recreation Policy
- Survey results
- Detailed inventory list of County Forest tracts [part of draft management plan]
- Real Estate Evaluations – properties beside County Managed Forests
- Acreages of other County Forests

The Committee discussed the ecological, economic and social benefits of having a County managed forest. Best practices, Third Party Certification and other county managed forest systems were discussed. It was suggested that other County and Region Forest Managers could present to the Committee, such as York Region or Bruce County.

Anne-Marie Roussy left the meeting (7:20 p.m.)

The Chair asked members to give further consideration and thought to the high level questions of: Why have a County Forest? Do we have to have a County Forest? Do we have to manage it? And Do we have to manage it this way? Members were asked to send any additional thoughts on these questions to staff in anticipation of preparation of a document to address these questions in the fall.

The Chair also asked members to give consideration to questions that could be asked as part of a public engagement process.

4. Next Steps

Staff will organize a site visit to the County Forest with the Committee in August. The Committee will reconvene in September to start the active work required to create a concise document to bring forward to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: To be determined
 55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room

Respectfully Submitted,

.....
Councillor Laura Ryan, Chair
Forest Operation Review Committee.