



FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

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

The Committee met at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville at 7.00 p.m.

Members Present: Councillor Laura Ryan (Chair)
Councillor Heather Hayes
Colleen Mitchell (Public member)
John Riley (Public member)
Johnny Yeaman (Public member)

Others Present: Councillor Ken McGhee

Members Absent: Councillor Geoff Dunlop
Al Buck (Public member) (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 7.00 p.m.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members (None)

1. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Sher Arnfinson, a Mulmur Resident was in attendance to note her concerns about the County Forest Main Tract as it abuts her property. Her first concern was about hunting. She reported that she hears gun shots consistently from her home and she would like to see it reduced or prohibited. Ms. Caroline Mach noted that hunting is prohibited in some County Forest Tracts. Hunters must adhere to Provincial regulations along with the County's restrictions, which include no hunting from June 1 to September 30 on all County Forest tracts. Another concern addressed by Ms. Arnfinson is the logging in the forest. She noted that the loggers are cutting down many of the larger trees and leaving the smaller thin ones. Ms. Mach said that harvesting of the County forest is done on a sustainable basis and the practice is to take the worst trees first, however, there are a number of issues to take into consideration, including the species of the trees and the spacing of trees. Ms. Arnfinson also stated her concerns for the aquifers. Warden Ryan noted that this was not in the County's jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – February 9, 2016 – ITEM #2 Review of Draft Forest Management Plan

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft Forest Management Plan that was circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Ken McGhee was in attendance and noted some concerns with the twenty year period of the plan. He said that it was too long of a life span. Mr. Darrell Keenie noted that as part of the Management Plan, the Operating Plan is reviewed every five years.

Warden Ryan suggested that the executive summary be revised to include information about the five year review as part of the process and to add a comment that states external forces, such as climate change, or population growth would allow for the plan to be reviewed or assessed sooner than the twenty years if needed.

The Committee also discussed minor amendments throughout the plan, including amending the maps for better clarity.

3. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – February 9, 2016 – ITEM #3 Next Steps

Staff was directed to process the changes as discussed and to submit the Draft Forest Management Plan to the February 25, 2016 Community Services Dufferin Oaks Committee meeting for approval.

The Committee also discussed a process for establishing a recreation policy and directed staff to create a spreadsheet specifying the broad range of uses in the various forest tracts, for the committee to review.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned (8:11 p.m.).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Councillor Laura Ryan, Chair
Forest Operation Review Committee.