



Ward Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Vickers Heights Community Centre
1695 Broadway Avenue

1. Neebing Ward Meeting 03-2023

Chair: Councillor Greg Johnsen

2. Resource Persons

Werner Schwar, Supervisor - Parks & Open Space Planning
Tina Larocque, Coordinator - Boards, Committees & Special Projects

3. Guests

Len Day, Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association

4. Attendance

Approximately 23 individuals were in attendance.

5. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair called the meeting in order, welcomed those in attendance to the meeting and provided introductory comments.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Neebing Ward meeting held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, for information.

7. Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association (NWORTA) Presentation

Len Day, Northwestern Ontario Recreational Trails Association provided a presentation relative to the above noted.

Len Day provided background information on the Northwestern Ontario

Recreational Trails association (NWORTA):

They are a five-member board of various non-motorized user groups whose mandate is to create destination-based hiking trails in Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Nipigon and Minnesota.

Len Day had shown diagrams of the Trans Canada Trails, Water and Land Trails from Manitoba to Sault Ste Marie. He also provided information on how they are going to improve by using a 5-phase trail plan. Phase 1 will be the Shabaqua Trail, Phase 2 is Kakabeka Falls Trail, Phase 3 is the Pigeon River Trail, Phase 4 - Nipigon Trail and Phase 5 will be the Atikokan Trail. They are working with landowners for granting access to continue trail systems.

A resident inquired if permits are required to use the trails. Len Day responded that the trails are free to use by everyone, however they have memberships that are available to purchase that helps them generate money to assist with their work on the trails.

A resident inquired how do they gain access to private lands. Werner Schwar, Supervisor - Parks & Open Space Planning provided an overview of the process. He responded that a letter would be sent to the landowner which would include what they are proposing, and the letter would be filled out by the resident and sent back. If its a township, they would need to go before the Council of that township to request permission.

Len Day advised that additional information about the association can be found on the website and Facebook page, or you can contact them by email nworta@nworta.ca

The Chair thanked Len Day for attending the ward meeting.

8. Potential Trail Development in Neebing Ward

Werner Schwar, Supervisor - Parks & Open Space Planning provided a presentation relative to the above noted.

Werner Schwar provided a diagram and provided overview of the Mosquito Creek Trail Network with high level conceptual possible routing for trails on-road and shoulder. He also provided diagrams and provided an overview of Neebing River Conceptual routes on road/shoulder and trails on rail possible routing without considering ownership or costing.

Werner Schwar advised that once developers start building, trails can be considered. Developments become city lands and is easier to create trails on city owned lands instead of private lands. He further provided information on trail maintenance and the budget for trails.

The Chair thanked Werner Schwar for attending the ward meeting.

9. Ward and City Issues

9.1 Hillcourt Estates

The Chair provided a brief overview related to the above noted. He advised that Council directed Administration to report back and he encouraged residents to be in attendance when the item returns back to Council.

9.2 Budget

The Chair provided an update relative to the budget that was ratified and the further direction to Administration to find 2 million in savings to be presented later in the year. Administration reported back to Council and provided options that could possibly assist in budget reductions. On the list of options, the Neebing arena and the neebing bus routes were proposed as potential cuts as the arena had the lowest user usage of all of the arenas, and the neebing bus had low number of riders. Council did not go ahead with the proposed options and they both remained in the budget.

The Chair responded to questions.

9.3 Roads in Neebing Ward

A discussion had taken place relative to the state of the roads in the neebing ward. The Chair advised that when residents are reporting road conditions/hazards to the City to please contact Dispatch at 625-2195 and request for a call back from the supervisor so residents will know that the work had been completed.

9.4 Airport Noise and Flight Training Program

The Chair advised that he had been speaking to many residents about their concerns of the airport noise and the Confederation College flight training program. The chair further advised that he will continue speaking to the Airport Authority and the college aviation program about the late training flights, and whether the planes could be directed away from

resident's homes. The Chair will provide more information at a future meeting date when it becomes available.

9.5 Property Tax and Water Program for Low Income Seniors and Low Income Persons with Disabilities

The Chair advised that the City of Thunder Bay offers a Property Tax & Water Credit Program for low-income seniors and low income persons with disabilities. The information and application can be found on the City of Thunder Bay website or at the office.

9.6 MTO Highway 61 Planning and Preliminary Design

A discussion had taken place relative to the Ministry of Transportation Highway 61 Planning and Preliminary Design from Arthur Street to Loch Lomond Road. The MTO is conducting a Planning, Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study for a 9.2 km section of highway 61 from .5 km south of Arthur Street to .5 km south of Loch Lomond Road. There was a Public Information Centre meeting that had taken place on October 5, 2023. Everyone was encouraged to provide feedback on-line on the MTO website.

9.7 Concerns of transport trucks on Arthur Street

A discussion had taken place relative to transport trucks and other heavy trucks driving along Arthur Street, which raises safety concerns for the residents. Residents insisted that a designated truck route would be safer for everyone who travels along Arthur Street.

The Chair responded to questions.

9.8 Motorists speeding

A discussion had taken place relative to the speeding of motorists on Broadway Avenue, Riverdale Road and Mountain Road. There were also concerns raised with ATV's and snowmobiles that are travelling at high speed on Chippewa Road. It was suggested that community safety signs be placed up and speeding fines increased.

The Chair responded to questions.

9.9 Water Drainage Issues

The Chair advised that a local improvement petition to improve water drainage for Whitegates Drive was not successful. There are many

residents who have raised concerns with the drainage issues and had suggested that the drainage be cleared out and culverts could help with the drainage issues.

The Chair responded to questions.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.