Beach Community Council Meeting

February 6th, 2018

Present: Lisa Witherington, Charlie Witherington, Ed Nowlan, Jim Howlett, Scott Howley

Community Members: 6

Introductions of council members

Minutes of December 5th discussed

Correspondence

* None received

Treasurers Report

* $5945.41 - no new activity on the account

Special Committees Report

* Nevada account is fundraising for kids on the beach (sports, Kids Christmas Party). Nevada tickets are sold at the Beach store.
* $1,017.69 - donated $491 to kids Christmas party and $50 for stamps
* T-Ball – possibly will be looking for sponsors (HBRU, Hutches)
* Easter, Christmas and T-Ball take up a lot of funds
* Easter Bunny is needing repairs

New Business

* The Bezan's were here from Crown Point to discuss environmental issues.
* Proposal by MOE about Climate change – addressing persistent air pollution issues in Hamilton and Sarnia
* Handouts were passed out re: cumulative effects
* This proposal will only apply to new or expanding facilities
* There are two substances that are being looked at benzyne and benzopyrene (these are also emitted from cars and from wood burning) anything with carbon it gets emitted
* Both carcinogenic, both come out of Coke Oven operations at Stelco and Dofasco also Ritchers
* Various airsheds were looked at Hamilton has the most polluted airshed.
* What can we do as citizens – we need to recognize that we are exposed to bad chemicals. Not just the carcinogens we are discussing.
* We are allowed to submit comments to the MOE regarding this, gives everyone a chance to have a say. Comments citizens made have been heard and some have been implemented.
* Environment Hamilton advised that when legislation is drafted there is a lot of pressure from the policital side (elected officials) (How does it affect the economy, how does it affect jobs)?
* This proposal will not change unless a new company wants to set up a new chemical operations where the two carcinogens, or existing companies plan a major expansion. Unsure if this will affect Stelco if they start making steel again. Believes that Stelco has some grandfathered rules in effect.
* One major comment that should be stated is that it should be on all existing companies. In order to have some affect with legislation.
* The deadline is February 7th, 2018 at midnight for comments.
* Would like the Beach Community to consider Collation against Pollution. Started about 3-4 years ago. Group focuses on the existing pollution and hinges around the steel mills as they are the ones that are the biggest polluters. Facebook site if you are interested. Plume pictures are shared there as well as information as to who to call to report.
* Looking for a community liason person for the environmental committee. These committees meet 4 times a year. These companies need to report to community and stake holders. Meetings take about an hour and a half. Crowne Point Community and other communities have a designated permanent liason. Stelco, Richters, Dofasco.
* There have been two noteworthy incidents – yellowish plume went over highway – coal tar processing, another from Dofasco – plume or particulate from coffining
* The large polluters are both up wind from our community and the winds usually blow the particulate to our community
* The process is not to shut these companies down, the goal is to hold them accountable and to see them do the best that they can do
* Social pressure – we deserve better as we can not choose the air we breathe – we need to protect our people
* CLC – has been attended by Ed Nowlan.
* Scott and Ed have both been to Dofasco as well
* We work closely with Environment Hamilton
* We need new blood to go to these meetings as these issues are prevalent
* There are not enough citizen representation – should be 5 citizens and 10 industry entities.
* There can be two members and they can alternate.
* Environment Hamilton is quite outspoken at these meetings
* Black particulate on snow and houses – it needs to be reported, every time. If your neighbour is reporting then check your area as well and report it as well. The MOECC (Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) will only check the house reporting the issue.
* Not just particulate but smells as well.
* Coalition of Pollution site is constantly updated with meeting details of CLC's
* Meeting dates are already set and posted ahead of time as a reminder
* Getting consistent voices in this meetings is important
* Online is getting to more people (for petitions and such)
* The Beach Community is not well represented
* Scott Howley and Ed Nowlan are going to reengage into these meetings
* Concerns that there is not enough content in the Banner
* Wants summary of the minutes of the meeting put into the Banner
* Wants Scott's website put into the Banner and the Facebook page put into the Banner as well
* Is there an update on the bus shelter – discussed with Chad Collins – possible putting two in – one at the store and one across the street at the College. Has been left in Chad's hands. They are going to contact the variety store owner to see if this will impede his business (parking).
* Lagoon Avenue and 865 Beach Blvd are tied together . Lots of traffic on Lagoon. Police are aware. We will talk to neigbours on this street.

Next Meeting Date

April 3, 2018 at 7:30 pm