



Vars Community Association

Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2012

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Vars CA was called to order at 7pm on January 19, 2012 at Vars Fire Hall by Jean Seguin.

Present:

Laurie McCannell	Jean Seguin	Stuart Malcolm
Linda Ablack	Anne Jutras	Philip Berthiaume
Robin Van de Lande	Linda Payant	Barbara Lavictoire
Carol Ruddy	Wayne Redsell	

Excused: Stephen McCreary

Absent:

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Conflict of interest

- No issues of potential conflict of interest were raised.

D. Open Issues

- 1 City of Ottawa bylaw changes & zoning - Robin & Carol from city Planning provided a summary of consultation process across city, including Vars – very positive. Report in “technical circulation” phase ahead of submission to City committee planned for April 5.
Question: VCA opinion on rezoning land along north west portion of Rockdale Rd within Vars village as “village core” instead of “residential” (current zoning)
Vote: 4-3 to maintain existing residential zoning for the lands in question – this is the VCA’s recommendation. Upcoming City studies: LEAR, ARIP, Zoning
- 2 Alcide Trudeau Rink (Barb)
Rink and canteen are busy, with Ron under contract and help from volunteers.
Barb is looking for more volunteers, screening youth 16 years+ who need hours.

- Garbage cans require more frequent attention from city – request to city to provide an additional receptacle on site.
First aid kit should be on site next week (Wayne).
Phone line at rink is dead – requests for city to have it fixed unproductive – Rachelle from the city will be asked again.
- 3 French Services consultation – (Anne)
Session in Navan on Dec 2 identified need for high quality “front line” services in French, as well as adequate sport and activity programming for youth.
Suggestion: in communities with a smaller number of Francophones, threshold number for running programs might need to be lowered so these populations are still provided their services in French.
- 4 Director’s Training – (Anne-part one), (Jean-part two)
Part one featured an introduction to board structure, visioning, recruitment and planning.
Recommendation: create a hand-book for new members outlining articles of incorporation, roles, duties, etc.
Part two emphasized need for all members to understand the rules and liabilities.
Recommendation: city councilors Thompson & Blais should promote an annual session for community association personnel in Ottawa to facilitate training, networking, etc.
Board members will start writing their tasks, based on the job descriptions, in order to put together a manual.
- 5 Website – (Jean)
It looks great and is helping foster relationships with other groups in the community. Need stats on number of hits.
- 6 Finances – (Linda P.)
Statement presented and accepted.
CIBC account to be closed Jan 20, 2012.
Unclaimed prize from July 2011 BBQ being held until July 1, 2012 – Jean holds the winning ticket and the money (\$165) is reserved in the bank until then.
Motion: reserve \$3000 in account for cenotaph upkeep – carried.
Motion: disperse 2011 payment as key agent to Barb – carried.
Motion: disperse first installment payment for rink contract to Ron – carried.
Motion: transfer petty-cash to Barb to operate canteen – carried.
Motion: authorize one-time \$200 bonus to Ron for rink maintenance– carried.
- 7 Community Garden application for City funds – (Jean)
According to the city, the lot has been decontaminated, but the MOE requires further assessment of the soil quality (this spring) before proceeding.
Application deadline is Feb 5 – pursuing project start up funds in light of benefits to local school programs, residential care facilities and general village.

The site requires complete development including fencing, equipment, raised-beds, storage, and the VCA would be responsible for booking portions of the garden and site maintenance – Laurie will research liability and current insurance. Long term: VCA assists establishment of the project team seeking permanent custodial group/club to facilitate ongoing operations and management.

- 8 Farmers' Market – (Jean & Laurie)
The VCA will support the efforts of a local group who wants to develop the concept and will liaise with the city to that end, etc.
Laurie will discuss the project status with Father John Blakely and report back.
- 9 Managing the bookings of Bearbrook and Alcide Trudeau Park – (Jean) in consultation with city officials, no enough activities have yet been identified to support to handing over this responsibility to the VCA. Initiative is put aside for now.

E. New Business

- 50\$ contribution to upcoming Vars Winter Carnival (Feb 3) requested by Optimist Club – motion carried.
- Date of VCA's Annual General Meeting moved to September 27, 2012 – carried.
- Discussion of City of Ottawa's proposed bylaw amendment regarding responsibilities of abutting landowners to create 300meter buffer zone around sites handling putrescible wastes – Philip will seek clarification.
- Update regarding proposed North Russell dump – new information posted on the proponents' website www.crrrc.ca including draft sections of a terms of reference for Environmental Assessment studies. Also, Dump the Dump Now and other local groups & businesses will be showcased at the Living Locally Fair in Russell, Jan 21.
- Councilor Blais' office is gearing up for Samuel de Champlain's 400 year anniversary – plans are in the works highlighting local/related history.

F. Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 by Jean Seguin. The next general meeting of the Vars Community Association will be 7pm February 16th 2012, at the Vars Fire Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Laurie McCannell

Approved by: Jean R. Séguin