

# **Merrill Hills Hamlet – General Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2022

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Merrill Hills Hamlet – General Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on October 5, 2022 by the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Chair, Mike Ubell. This meeting was held by video teleconferencing (Zoom).

## **Present**

Mike Ubell – Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Chair

Gerald Guest – Vice Chair Merrill Hills Hamlet Board

Guillaume Lenormand - Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Secretary

Joe Moser

Bernadette Moser

Dan Streisel

Brent Aasen

Betty Aasen

Joanne Ubell

Kim King

Wade King

Miles Berg

Brent Sokoloski

Karen Sokoloski

Mike Smitten

## **Guests**

Ken Kolb – R.M. Corman Park Administrator

Judy Harwood – Reeve

David Greenwood – Councilor Division 4

## **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Gerald G. to accept the agenda for the October 5, 2022. Kim K. seconded the motion. Carried.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Ken K and David G. pointed out that the position titles on the minutes needed to be amended to reflect that David Greenwood is the Division 4 Councilor and Judy Harwood is the Reeve. The original minutes had read that David was the Administrator and Judy

was the Corman Park Councilor. A motion was made by Bernadette M. to accept the minutes of the meeting from October 19, 2021, as presented with the amendments to the guest positions. This was seconded by Joe M. Carried.

## **Budget**

Mike U. went over the costs from 2021 and then the costs to date that appeared in the financial report received on October 5 from the R.M. A question was raised if we had received a quote for the road repair work being done on Gibson Court. Mike said that he had not but Ken K said that the R.M. would most likely be covering the cost and there should not be any charges to the hamlet. The repairs were required as the chip seal crew's equipment went through the pavement and that crew felt that the original road had not been built properly. Ken K. would confirm whether the R.M. would be covering the full cost of the repair.

Gerald G. asked about what happens with the reserve and what type of account it gets placed in for earning interest. Ken K. said that he will review and determine options.

Wade K. made a motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Seconded by Gerald G. Carried.

## **Old Business**

**Roads.** Gerald G. asked what happens when someone gets a permit for the weight of the vehicle and then damage happens to the road. Ken K. said that typically the person who got the permit would be responsible for the repairs.

Joe M. brought up that Graham Court still has some cracks and upheaval even after the repairs. Mike U. will go through the hamlet and report any areas of concern to the R.M. Mike U. asked everyone to be on the look out as well for issue with the road and report to one of the hamlet board members.

Joe M. asked about the possibility of getting some solar speed signs that flash the speed someone is driving. There still seems to be some people driving through the hamlet as speeds greater than the posted limit and it is a concern for the children in the community. Ken K. felt that they may be around \$3500 but there may be grants through SGI. Mike U. and Joe M. will investigate options and costs for these signs. *Addendum: Joe has been investigating and there is a possibility of grant money for the sign. He is just awaiting further information on the grant.*

**Water Report.** The latest water report had been emailed earlier to everyone. Two wells that had been tested were high in magnesium and one well was high in iron. Wade K. stated that they had Wiggs shock thir well 10 days before the test and they had a higher amount of iron than normal following. The well levels were down slightly but Wade said that theirs had actually been lower at an earlier year than this past year.

**Grass Cutting.** Gerald G. had reported that it had been difficult in the last cut to cut close to the edge of the road due to the new chip seal and all of the gravel that had been swept off to the side of the road. If anyone wanted the edges cut again before winter to let him know. There were three full grass cuts completed in 2022. Rowan Guest is unsure if he will be able to continue to cut grass in 2023. He should know about February 2023 if they can commit. Mike Smitten said that if Rowan was unable to cut grass that his teenagers would be interested in taking over the grass cutting.

**Weeds.** Mike U. reported that more beetles had been delivered this year. Ken K. and Judy H. mentioned that they were lead to believe that the beetles are working. The beetles destroy the weed from the bottom and then upwards. Spray had been delivered to the hamlet but the timing corresponded with rain so it seems like the spraying was not as effective this year and more leafy spurge is in the area. Ken K. said that the R.M. right aways are a priority for them. Kim K. said that she had sent a few emails to the R.M. as the 5 acres that was behind them had been cleared and then the leafy spurge took over. They had the leafy spurge cleared in their own yard but now it is starting again because of what is spreading from the lot behind. She was disappointed in the responses she had received. They had told her there was no weed inspector and that it was not the R.M.'s practice to advice new owners of things such as leafy spurge. Ken. K. said that normally the procedure is that the property would be inspected and then an order issued for the landowners to take measures to control the leafy spurge. Both Ken K. and David G. asked Kim to forward the correspondence to them and they would look into the matter. *Addendum: Kim forwarded the correspondence and both Ken and David have responded. A registered letter is being send to the land owner so that they can be prepared to take action in the Spring. In addition, the R.M. will look at adding an article on leafy spurge to the newsletter that goes out with the tax notices in July.*

**Civic Addresses – Update.** Mike U. advised that this is the first year that the R.M. contacted the hamlet board about the signs without being prompted. The contact for the signs at the R.M. had asked if the road into the hamlet should be referred to as Merrill Road or 3063. Mike advised that he felt more referred to it as Merrill Road. The other question was regarding Delver as the front part is called Delver Road but by the mailbox is it Delver Place. He told the R.M. that he felt most use Delver Road. Mike asked those in attendance if they were any comments regarding which they prefer for both roads. The timing for installation of the signs would be later Fall or early Spring but then it will take

about two years before Canada Post catches up with the change. There was a discussion about all of the differences when you search Merrill Hills addresses. Kim K. mentioned in Google Maps we show up as Vanscoy. Ken K. said they are working with Google Maps to correct issues that like. Gerald G. felt that it is important to get these civic address signs in place in case an emergency in the area happens as the response team would most likely come from Saskatoon. Guillaume L. said that they had to call one time and the response team seemed to know where their location was. During the discussion it was confirmed that we would use Merrill Road and Delver Road for the signs.

*Addendum: The contact at the R.M. reached out again to confirm and was advised of the decision.*

**Recreation Area by Merrill Hills School.** Betty A. advised that she tried to reach out to the Dickoffs, who manage the school, about working together on the project but unfortunately, they have not had a response. The committee working on the recreation area plan would like to get a survey done so that they can start designing the plan and getting some quotes. Judy H. said to go ahead and move forward as she would like to see this area developed and the funds that are available utilized. Judy asked Ken K. if the R.M. has a map of the school lot as they had asked for a survey at one time. Ken will follow up with Jessica. If the R.M. pays then it would come out of the funding for the recreational area funding.

**Playground within the Hamlet.** Ken K. said that he looked at all of the cul-de-sacs and there does not appear to be enough room in any of them to create a playground where there was enough clearance from the road to be safe. A discussion took place as to whether there was any other area available within the hamlet that allowed for a safe space and where funding could still be obtained from the hamlet. It was asked if land could be purchased and if the R.M. could fund the purchase so that funding could be obtained. Ken K. will look into this. The plan would be to have a small playground to take kids within the hamlet and then still proceed with the area at the school for larger scale recreation such as an ice rink, pickle ball or squash courts, etc. *Addendum: Ken K. followed up with Mike U. and advised that there is a possibility that land could be purchased by the R.M. within the hamlet for the playground area. Ken needed to bring it to the R.M. council for approval and would update Mike on their decision after October 17, 2022. He further contacted Mike after the meeting to advise that it was approved that purchase of land by the R.M. within the hamlet could be explored.*

## **New Business**

**Book Library at Mailbox.** Mike U. thanked Betty A. for her work on getting the book library by the mailbox. The feedback from the community has been positive. Betty said that she is also working on a project to get a bulletin board and a bench for that area as

well. David G. said to ensure that we do not skimp on funding requests as the money is there. Bernadette said that we have a proud and beautiful community and thanked all who contribute.

### **Other**

Joe M. asked about whether the lines of Valley Road would be painted as it will become even more dangerous with winter approaching and no lines on the road. Ken K. will look into it. David G. said that the city portion should be an inquiry made to the city by the R.M. Ken mentioned that the R.M. had been using the flexible, reflective tabs on the curve on Valley Road as there is a shortage of road paint this year.

Mike S. asked if there are any plans to make a cyclist path along Valley Road for safety reasons. Judy said that unfortunately she does not see that happening. It was discussed that the city is saying they will expand the trails down by the river with the new urban park they are planning. Guillaume said that if he bikes, he usually goes straight down to Hodgson Road and then over to Spadina. Even though there is dirt and gravel portions, it is safer than using Valley Road.

Judy H. mentioned that she was out at Wanuskewin earlier in the day and there had been another fire out in that area. She asked that people remain vigilant as they think someone has been setting some of these fires. Mike and Joanne U reminded everyone that we should check fire insurance coverage as theirs had changed this year and the company they use no longer offers an option to top up the coverage for fire. Everyone needs to ensure that they have enough coverage as a fire call could cost up to \$100,000 or more as the response would come from Saskatoon. It was mentioned that we need to have at least a \$30,000 rider and then the R.M. covers the remainder.

Gerald Guest brought up that he had inspected our hamlet sign. The rock is holding up fine but the wood is starting to rot and will need some work.

### **Board Nomination**

Nil

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The date and time of the next general meeting is yet to be determined. Further information will be provided at a later date. Gerald G. thanked

all of the guests and the hamlet residents who attended for taking the time to join the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Guillaume Lenormand, Secretary for the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board

Approved by: Mike Ubell, Chair of the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board