

Merrill Hills Hamlet – General Meeting

Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Merrill Hills Hamlet – General Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on November 18, 2020 by the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Chair, Bernadette Moser. This meeting was held by video conferencing (Zoom).

Present

Bernadette Moser - Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Chair
Mike Ubell – Merrill Hills Hamlet Board Secretary
Joe Moser
Dan Streisel
Ron Barsi
Diane Barsi
Brent Aasen
Betty Aasen
Joanne Ubell
Deb Edighoffer
Karen Clothier
Ray Clothier
Kim King
Wade King
Rick Didychuk
Jamie Didychuk
Tennille Corbett
Miles Berg
Jacquie Dionne
Melissa Lenormand
Guillaume Lenormand
Gerald Guest
Deb Sutherland

Guests

Adam Tittlemore – R.M. Corman Park Administrator
Judy Harwood – R.M. Corman Park Councilor

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ron B. to accept the agenda for the November 18, 2020. Dan S. seconded the motion. Carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ray C. to accept the minutes of the meeting from September 25, 2019 as presented. This was seconded by Dan S. Carried

Budget

Mike U. went over the costs to date that appeared in the financial report received at the start of November from the R.M. A question was raised as to the cost of the mowing charged to the hamlet. Adam will check with Craig as to the reason for the charge.

Addendum: Mike U. spoke with Craig the day after the meeting. The charge will be removed and will show in the finalized year end statement that will be sent out in January.

Dan S. made a motion to accept the financial report except for the mowing charge that would be queried. Seconded by Karen C. Carried.

Old Business

Roads. Mike advised that he had spoken with Craig regarding the seal coat. The R.M. will come out in the spring and assess the condition of the pavement. They will decide in May or June as to whether the chip seal would be done in 2021 or held off until 2022. Craig had said that they are prepared to do it next year but if we can get an extra year out of it then it will extend the road. They could also do it in two phases, if that is what we wanted. The areas where people turn seem to be showing the most wear. It was brought up that the R.M. had originally advised that it should be completed every five years. Mike added that the R.M. has been very responsive to coming out and patching holes when requested so we should not have any issues about having the chip seal completed when it is required. The money has already been allocated for the sealant through the extra we pay each year so there should be no additional cost. We need to continue to mark holes where water can cause damage to the road so please keep advising Mike or Bernadette when you see anything.

Wade K. said he would investigate what they use in the area of their condo in Arizona and the cost. Adam replied that if he had information then he and the R.M. would review and see if it would work given the difference in climates.

Water Report. Dan S. stated that he had emailed out the latest water report to everyone. All the samplings had come back similar to the previous year. Adam said that he would check with Amy to see if the water testing by the R.M. had been conducted.

Grass Cutting. Mike U. reported that grass cutting was delayed this year as he had asked by Melissa from the R.M. to wait until the R.M. had sprayed. Deb S. and Jerry G's son cut the grass in the hamlet again this past summer and is willing to continue next summer as well. A question was asked as to whether he required coverage under the Workers Compensation Board (WCB). Tennille C. offered to confirm. A concern about whether Rowan did have the proper protective gear when cutting grass. Deb S. confirmed that he did. *Addendum: Tennille advised that the WCB coverage should be through the R.M. Mike U. followed up with Craig and Rowan has been covered by the R.M. based on the name provided in the hamlet's AGM minutes.*

Weeds. Bernadette M. said that the R.M. had done some spraying and released some beetles in four test areas. The beetles seemed to be successful so the R.M. will be releasing more beetles in 2021. 2020 was a trial as they had been tried before but did not work out as hoped. This year, they did seem to work as they released greater numbers. The beetles seemed to control the leafy spurge between Deb E.'s and Moser's property. Deb S. and Gerry G. also reported that they saw positive results as they were another test location. Karen C. indicated that they would be interested in trying beetles in 2021. Bernadette said that anyone interested in trying beetles in 2021 could pass their names to her and she would speak with Amy Beech, the new weed control contact for the R.M.

A question was raised as to what could be done where it appears the leafy spurge is not being controlled. Bernadette said that she would speak with Adam to find out how the R.M. handles those situations.

High Speed Internet – Update on Redbird Communications Tower. Mike U. stated he had called Redbird Communications and was told that the tower was not completed as they were originally waiting on some equipment; however, they now feel that it would be better to attempt getting a grant for fibre optics. They would need a letter from the hamlet confirming that its residents support applying for a grant for fibre optics installation. Adam said that the approval for the tower was granted in 2018 and his understanding is that Red Bird has applied for grants for fibre optics in other areas but that he is unaware that any have been approved to date. Bernadette M. added that in a call she had with Red Bird, she was told that they were waiting on Sask Power to finish the tower, so the stories seem to be different depending on who you speak with.

Civic Addresses – Update. Adam said that the signs are in and will be assigned next spring. Emergency services will be able to start using these civic addresses sometime in

the summer of 2021. Mike U. added that he was told it could be up to at least two years until Canada Post catches up with the change.

New Business

Snow Clearing After Storm. Wade K. thanked those in the community that had helped with snow clearing after the storm. It was added by a number of attendees that they were also impressed by the R.M.'s quick response for clearing the roads. Judy said that the R.M. were already to go when they knew of the pending storm. She would pass along the appreciation.

Board Nomination

Dan S.'s position was not filled for 2020 and Mike U.'s term was not also up. Mike U. had agreed to stay on one more year given that there was already one vacancy that still need to be filled. Bernadette thanked Dan's continued support to the board given that one position was vacant during the year. She called for nominations for Secretary and Vice Chair. Mike U. was put forth for Vice Chair since no other names were put forth. Guillaume Lenormand volunteered to take the Secretary position if no other hamlet residents were interested. Dan. S. made a motion to accept Mike continuing and Guillaume join the hamlet board. Ray C. seconded the motion. Carried.

Other

Trespassing Law. Judy advised that someone was fined over \$400 after being caught hunting on private property. She advised if you catch anyone hunting illegally to take their license and report to the Corman Park Police.

Available Grant Money from R.M. Judy said that there is money available from the R.M. to upgrade Merrill School with such features as a playground, ball diamond, picnic tables, basketball court, etc. Cathedral Bluff just put in a zip line using some of the grant funds. The land would need to be cleared by volunteers in the community and someone would need to take the lead on submitting the application. Deb S. and Gerry G. said they would be interested in helping. Mike and Joanne U. are also willing to assist.

Church Upgrades. Betty A. said that the siding project on the church has been completed and the Sunday School will be started in the spring. Bush is being cleared for the addition of more columbarium units. Dan S. said to pass along that it is all looking great.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Ubell, Secretary for the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board

Approved by Bernadette Moser, Chair of the Merrill Hills Hamlet Board