

# THE BULLETIN

A Brief Blog from the Board of the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition

Issue #2 - November 2020

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## NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following is a brief overview (with references) of our virtual MC<sup>2</sup> AGM held on November 1, 2020, ably hosted by our president, Elaine Capes.

The main focus here will be on feedback we received from members. A more detailed list is available under section 9 of the draft AGM minutes (on our website at [www.monomulmur.com](http://www.monomulmur.com)). This list includes some of the responses from our president to the various concerns presented. You can find the President's and the Environment Committee's reports on the same page of the MC<sup>2</sup> website. Included in these reports are helpful references well worth reading for deeper knowledge of the issues presented.

An important take away from the AGM is to enhance our communication with our members. The board began working on

this initiative at their most recent meeting of November 6th. Ideas include updating the website more regularly, adding more links to the website and judiciously using e-blasts to highlight important issues to the members. We are also contemplating zoom meetings and webinars on current topics. Tentatively we hope to be able to have a visioning session with members in the Fall of 2021.

There are many issues related to land use, planning regulations and decisions that have significant local impacts. We alert our members through our newsletter, bulletins and e-blasts as things emerge.

Each member can also stay informed through improved websites from Mulmur, Mono and Dufferin County. At the same time we are tracking the effects of higher tier governments on our local situation.

Though we need to remain aware of the limit of our volunteer resources, we can still become more effective, taking active roles when we discover things like the federal government's plan to plant two billion trees. We will be exploring what this means for our local community as many of these trees will have to be planted on privately owned land. Another example is the provincial government's plan for the 413 highway cutting through the environmentally sensitive landscapes of Vaughan, Caledon and parts of Brampton.

The depth of knowledge and experience within the membership of our MC<sup>2</sup> community is a rich asset which we want to continue to mine. Please reach out and let us know what is on your mind about our local environment.

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## TOWN OF MONO COUNCIL

The Town is blessed with a council determined to stay on top of each issue as they arise. Below, in no specific order are the current hot-button topics.

- The Gooseville Tavern development remains on the watch list. While this property is a private property, observation indicates that there remains much (what could be defined as commercial) activity on this property. There is a neighbourhood organization keeping watch on further developments.
- The proposed horse track on 4th Line is still an ongoing concern. At present the Town Staff is working to verify if the alleged contaminated soil was removed. The owner stated that it was, but the

council has received incomplete submissions of evidence verifying the claim of removal and statements from the public that dispute the removal claims. Council is asking the owner to provide evidence or transportation tickets to verify removal as was requested on the original order. We will keep a close watch on this issue since how it will be resolved will affect other current situations and potentially future similar scenarios.

- The hearing on the proposed Greenwood gravel pit in the Violet Hill area is concluded. We are waiting for the decision, which to our understanding could take months.

- Mono held a Town Hall meeting on November 5th. Three items of importance were presented and discussed, the first being the explanation of how the new plastic bag ban bylaw will be applied. It was explained what constitutes a reasonable limit of its uses. It was noted also that the federal government is planning to ban plastic bags nationwide and therefore this bylaw application might be moot at the municipal level.
  - There was a very good presentation on electric vehicles by Ken Bokor. The town website has a link for the YouTube presentation if you're interested in viewing it.
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## TOWN OF MONO COUNCIL (continued)

- There was a presentation by Dufferin County Waste Management as to how we could be more efficient in reducing waste. On average, Dufferin residents waste approximately \$1,500 worth of food annually. This is high compared to other counties.
- The ever-present issue of poor Internet service was addressed. There seems to be some development with either private interest ISPs and/or the SWIFT program. We are hoping that shovels-in-the-ground are getting closer.
- A new significant issue that seems to arise more often these days is road-side parking and trespassing complaints. Council passed a bylaw banning parking on the road near the Scott's/Canning Falls access entrance. This was necessary due to the trespassing issue with visitors visiting these falls, which are on private property. Further, it appears that this autumn's great weather brought a large number of visitors to our parks.
- In particular the Mono Cliffs Park parking lot on the third line was overwhelmed. Long lines of cars were observed parking on the road causing potential safety issues. Mono Council is looking into this situation together with the provincial park authority for a solution.
- It's municipal budget time in Mono once again. An annual event we encourage all

residents to engage in and pay attention to is how our municipality budget allocates our tax money. Our treasurer, Les Halucha, presented the budget draft to council on Nov 10. There is a special budget meeting scheduled on Nov 24 to discuss the budget in detail.

Thanks to the availability of an electronic meeting and documents online we can all attend from home and ask questions if the need arise. Don't forget to either register for the meeting and/or submit your questions before the deadline if unable to go live. Don't forget, it's your money council is budgeting to spend. Speak now or forever hold your peace is the modus operandi.

## MULMUR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

COVID life continues to impact the operation of our Township. Council and all Committee meetings are still held online, with the public welcome to join the action. In normal times Council meetings get very low attendance, except where there is a high-profile item on the agenda. At the November online meeting there were 26 attendees.

- A proposal that the Township has been reviewing for several years is currently occupying the attention of staff and Council. The plan to make a significant expansion of the Mansfield Ski Club operation has raised a wide range of concerns, particularly from citizens living in the area of the Ski Club. The Council has scheduled an online open house meeting in the new year to discuss the proposal and the concerns of the residents. Details will be found on Mulmur's website ([www.mulmur.ca](http://www.mulmur.ca)) as

they become available. (We should note that the website has been significantly improved and is a good resource for citizens.)

- On the policing side, Mulmur budgeted \$10,000 to pay for extra police presence on weekends between May and October. The money was fully spent, and the Township had 17 days of extra policing on 8 of the busier weekends. The results are notable: 133 speeding charges, including 5 for 30km over limit, 4 for 40km over; and two for stunt driving, at 66km over limit and 110km in a 50km zone. There were 26 other Highway Traffic Act violations. When the courts reactivate and deal with these charges, Mulmur will receive a percentage of the fines.
- While progress is being made, noise and speeding continues to be a critical issue

and one that the Council and the Road Safety Committee are focusing on.

- Competing government requirements, pandemic restrictions, proposed restructuring at the County level, inexperienced staff and other issues continue to contribute to staffing challenges in Mulmur. The Township recently advertised for a Planning Assistant & Committee Coordinator. We hope the person hired will be able to address some of the shortcomings. As we have mentioned in the past, it is imperative that the right person is hired to fill these important positions.

These are the main current issues in Mulmur. MC<sup>2</sup> has Board representatives at all Council meetings and on the Road Safety Committee. We will continue to keep members informed.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected – at a distance.

ARNOLD, BOB, CHERYL, DEL, ELAINE, KNUT, MICHAEL, RITA and SUSAN