

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION
Oct 1, 2018
QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Shirley Boxem Candidate for Councillor

1. Why are you running for office? What vision for our community drives your participation in municipal politics? What do you think you can contribute to our municipality?
 - a. I feel that with my experience in various sectors and my proven record of community work in protecting farmland and water, I have a unique toolkit to offer Mulmur. For myself, it's a natural progression in community work and giving back.
 - b. My vision for the community is one that is more collaborative and engaged. Upcoming issues need to be carefully navigated while ensuring the community remains vibrant and maintains the rural character. A community where everyone is engaged and where council collaborates with residents, our municipal neighbours, and meets challenges by starting the conversation.
 - c. See a. As well, I bring business processes into my framework for understanding issues and working for solutions.

2. Do you subscribe to the theory that increased residential development will reduce the tax burden on residents, and if so what would you do to encourage such development in our community? What about other types of development: industrial, commercial, etc.?

Yes and no. I'd have to admit that Mono seems to have a healthy budget that is supported by subdivisions. On the other hand there are communities that keep adding housing which then increases the need for services and they don't seem to get ahead. I support intensification which allows development in established settlement areas while maintaining the rural character. As for industrial commercial development, there has been lots of discussion about Primrose Park, though I see new businesses setting up in the Shelburne area. We may have to think more on how to plump the welcome mat for new businesses, and what kind of services we'll need to offer just to set up shop. I need more information on the options to consider.

3. What would be your approach to maintaining municipal services while keeping taxes stable?

There are a number of things that could be considered. First is understanding the best practices in our neighboring municipalities. Are there any nuggets to be mined there? Second is partnering on services. Are there services we offer that could benefit from partnering with other municipalities? The big banks moved to a system of partnering on cheque-clearing years ago which was previously unheard of. Another consideration

might be asking the service centers themselves for a proposal on cutting costs if not already done.

4. Aggregate mining is a major industry in Dufferin County, including in our communities. How would you propose to limit the expansion of aggregate mining?

Our official plan aims to contain this development to appropriate sites, though as we all know in the past aggregate trumps everything. Gravel pits should never be on prime farmland or below the water table, or interfere with water features. Striving for agreement on where we can and can't is what I advocate. This question is hard though, as we've yet to see how the new LPAT will impact the expensive appeal processes of the past. Strive to ensure residents understand the guidelines and keep on top of how the new legislation supports us (or doesn't).

5. We live in "Headwaters" communities and ground water is our most important resource. What steps do you feel the council should take to ensure the protection of our water?

We can encourage working more closely with the NVCA and ensure the understanding of strategies for keeping water clean. I would guess (since I don't fully understand) that many people don't know what is allowed and not allowed and what we can and can't do. In our recent Town Hall there was a review of some of our bylaws and the reinforcement of the fact that we are short on resources. This means that residents need to be able to identify situations of risk that should be reported. Council could support this need by implementing a communications strategy for bylaws and the citizen engagement required to give them rigor. As well we can further encourage land stewardship by our land owners and the agriculture sector.

6. What are your plans to manage the ongoing problem of noise pollution in our community?

Similar to #5 in establishing a shared understanding of what we're all empowered to do. The feedback I have heard so far is mostly around motor bike noise. I have found the flashing speed sign located in Stanton to be effective in making drivers slow down. The OPP also encourages people to report in. An example of how this kind of data (which is labor intensive) can actually help the issue needs to be underscored to residents. This again gets back to better lines of communication. Our distribution list should equal the number of people with email addresses. Building these lists is iterative and time consuming, but necessary to effective connectivity.

7. The dumping of contaminated landfill is an increasingly serious problem for our area. What will be your approach to addressing the fill dumping issue?

Again back to #5. Permits are required to ensure the quality and quantity of what activity is reasonable. A greater awareness of what situations should be reported or investigated would help residents. Council could reinforce the messaging on bylaws.

Information needs to be repeated and supported with a communications strategy that measures effectiveness.

8. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement and participation in council business?

I would recommend developing a strategy for communicating key issues outward with more emphasis on building the distribution list, ensuring key information is circulated via email and tax notices.

How can the council improve transparency?

Establish a review cycle for contracts is one way that private business accomplishes this. Also, involve residents where possible, as in committees.

Will you support continuing with regularly scheduled town hall meetings? Absolutely. We can definitely get better attendance.

Do you support the creation of and full support for effective council committees (eg: clear mandates, regular reports to and interaction with council, etc.)? Yes, citizen involvement must be encouraged wherever possible.

What other forums for transparency and citizen involvement do you foresee? Perhaps citizen involvement in the creation and execution of communications would ensure fresh eyes and perspective are supported.

9. Our communities have Codes of Conduct which aim to ensure dignity and respect for participants in the municipal government process. What do you feel could be done to improve the current Code of Conduct?

I don't know where the current Code of Conduct has failed, so looking at the current document I see it hasn't been reviewed since 2013. A review of ours against others would be a good exercise if not already done. Does council currently review the Code annually and perform a walkthrough with examples? That could identify any knowledge gaps and provide a needed refresh of key points. We have incredible business and legal skills in Mulmur. Perhaps an independent citizen review could identify potential pitfalls.

10. For Mayor and Deputy Mayor candidates: you will be our representative on County Council. Will your actions on County Council be directed by the instructions of your local council? What will you do when county needs and priorities conflict with your municipality?