

**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH-WEST OXFORD
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 15, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor: David Mayberry
Councillors: Paul Buchner (Ward 1), Peter Ypma (Ward 2), Valerie Durston (Ward 3), George Way (Ward 4), Jim Pickard (Ward 5), Craig Gillis (Ward 6)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Ellen Greb, Chief Administrative Officer
Diane Larder, Treasurer/Deputy CAO
Julie Forth, Clerk
Adam Prouse, Works Superintendent
Howard Leaver, Chief Building Official

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor David Mayberry and a quorum was present.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Paul Buchner
Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the regular meeting agenda for the September 15th, 2020 meeting of council be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

MINUTES

September 1st, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Jim Pickard
Seconded by George Way

RESOLVED that the regular minutes of the September 1st, 2020 Council meeting be approved, as amended.

pond – this stopped for liability reasons and now the area is overgrown and messy and the walking paths have deteriorated. She stated that the pond is no longer an appealing place to visit.

It was noted that the condition of the pond was reviewed in October, 2019. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority advised that a dam safety review would need to be completed prior to dredging the pond. At the time, Council provided direction to wait until the completion of the next review before doing any work. It needs to be confirmed that that dam will be able to hold the increased amount and weight of water that will enter the pond when it is dredged.

Discussion took place about the Centreville Pond committee that used to take care of the maintenance of the pond and surrounding areas. Since the dissolution of this committee the pond has filled with dirt and overgrown with weeds.

Rhonda Minogue re Centreville Pond

Rhonda Minogue, resident of Centreville, commented on the current state of Centreville Pond. She stated that the pond is now a swamp. She stated that to her knowledge the pond has not been dredged in over 40 years. The last time it was dredged, the dirt was spread along the surrounding pond banks and grass seed was planted. She noted that the area used to be a beautiful conservation area and used for wedding photos, picnics, scouts and canoeing. Bird and geese used to visit the pond, now it is filled with snapping turtles, mud and mosquitos. She asked Council to help bring back the beauty of the pond again for residents to enjoy.

Council discussed the current state of the pond and noted the need to established the Centreville Pond committee again to consider ways to help restore the pond. Councillor George Way will follow up with Beverley Walker to establish a committee with residents in the community. Discussion took place regarding other Township Hall and Park committees, and the role and responsibly they have in maintenance and fundraising for Township facilities and parks. A discussion with Upper Thames River Conservation Authority will also be needed to consider possible options for the pond and surrounding area.

Options that were considered in the past include dredging the pond and removing the dam to restore the area to a more natural state. There is a significant cost involved in removing the dam and dredging the pond before the next dam safety review which cost would need to be considered by Council. The Centreville Pond committee is encouraged to explore various options and fundraising possibilities.

