MINUTES


Staff: Colleen Pepper, Marketing & Communications Officer; Michelle Smibert, Clerk; Laura Pickersgill, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Roll Call

2. Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

3. Adoption of Agenda
   Resolution #1
   Moved by: Karen Devolin
   Seconded by: Larry Scanlan
   THAT the Agenda as prepared for the COVID-19 Task Force meeting of May 6, 2020, be adopted.
   Carried

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes
   Resolution #2
   Moved by: Larry Scanlan
   Seconded by: Abbie Boesterd
   THAT the Minutes as prepared for the COVID-19 Task Force meeting of April 29, 2020, be adopted.
   Carried

5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof
   There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared.

6. General Business & Reports
   6.1 Communications
      6.1.1 Social Media Discussion
      Concern was noted that there are social media pages being misrepresented as affiliates with the Town of Tillsonburg. Councillor Gilvesy will reach out to the pages
moderator to ask that the Town of Tillsonburg be permitted to comment and provide factual information to users. It was suggested that task force members can help moderate comments on these community pages and direct users to the appropriate sources to retain factual information. It was suggested that a short video be developed to make the public aware of what initiatives the task force is working on. The importance of sharing information to many channels is critical to ensuring all or most demographics of the Tillsonburg population are being reached.

Recommendations from the previous meeting will be brought before Council at the May 11, 2020 meeting. Members were encouraged to direct inquiries to covid-19@tillsonburg.ca.

Colleen Pepper shared information on a different model on providing information based on her power point presentation. The “BOB” approach connects people with best information in bite-sized chunks. Members agreed that this would be a recommended approach. This approach would allow for a reduction in larger daily bulletins and would incur more frequent, smaller bits of information posted throughout the day on various channels.

It was suggested that the task force agendas and minutes be posted publicly. Importance was noted on ensuring users are directed back to the direct source of information. The Mayor will be addressing questions during his live Facebook update. It was suggested that a question and answer section be added onto the Town’s Facebook page.

6.1.2 Did You Know Series
The Committee noted their frustration with the existing information on the daily bulletins and the website and recommended that smaller more frequent pieces of information be provided throughout the day that pertain largely to local initiatives and concerns on social media.

It was noted that there are more avenues for providing information to be utilized such as: the radio, local newspaper, communicating to the local secondary school guidance officer, etc. Concern was raised that if posts are done throughout the day people may miss the information rather than if it were too come all at once at an expected time. It was suggested that questions and answers provided during the Mayor’s live update be posted publicly for reference. Users who are on social media are encouraged to take screenshots of information posted and provide it to those who are not using the Internet.

6.1.3 Town Services Missing
The Tillsonburg Transfer Station will open shortly and more information is to come available.
It was noted that the number of people being tested within the jurisdiction of Southwestern Public Health is less than 2% at this time. It was noted that there is a new blood test available for front line workers to test for antibodies.

Discussion was held regarding the lack of testing centres in Tillsonburg whereas neighbouring communities do have closer access to them. Tillsonburg could be at a disadvantage due to the location of the Town being at the edge of Oxford County.

The OPP recently got approval to be tested as part of the frontline workers. Paramedics have been trained to perform the testing. Councillor Gilvesy will follow up to determine if the Tillsonburg Fire Department members will be eligible for testing as frontline workers.

**Resolution #3**

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Beres  
Seconded by: Karen Devolin

WHEREAS THAT the Town of Tillsonburg has a larger percentage of retirement age residents than most Ontario Communities, it is recommended that Council requests the Province through the Southwestern Public Health Unit to set up a public COVID-19 testing clinic in the Town as soon as possible.

Carried

6.1.4 Trail and Park Opening Clarification
Laura Pickersgill provided an update that Cadman Park is closed as it operates under the Long Point Region Conservation Authority but that Coronation Park remains open. It was noted that all outdoor amenities, such as benches, disc golf course, tables, and playground equipment remain closed as per the Provincial orders.

6.2 Circulate Local Company Announcements
It was suggested that these materials could be shared as part of the bite sized information shared on social media with links back to the source’s website. Councillor Gilvesy will let the task force know when the first post on this will occur.

6.3 Mental Health

6.4 Volunteer Outreach Group Discussion
Karen Devolin is gathering information on Volunteer Outreach and will provide an update at a future meeting. It was noted that volunteers are in short supply right now as many volunteers are the higher risk population that are required to stay home. It was noted that community groups receiving funding from agencies must ensure they are following the agencies’ procedures. An example provided would be that groups must be using volunteers with completed vulnerable persons sector checks. If these groups do not follow the rules, they could suffer repercussions of not receiving funding from the agencies or even that the agency could reap legal consequences.
Larry Scanlan will reach out to the Oxford County OPP Commander to determine if vulnerable sector checks could be made available in these situations as the OPP are only providing this service for emergencies currently. It was noted that volunteers may or may not be allowed to use vulnerable person sector checks done prior to the pandemic and that it would be the decision of the group the person is volunteering for to accept the older check or not.

6.5 Personal Protective Equipment Donation Campaign
Roxanne MacMillan indicated that many health care providers are in short supply of Personal Protective Equipment. It was noted that larger providers have an easier time procuring these resources whereas smaller, private providers and retirement homes have more difficulty doing so and are in even shorter supply. The Town’s Economic Development Department is compiling a list of companies offering PPE and that this list could be shared in the future to businesses.

It was suggested that information on the Oxford County PPE Donation Campaign could be shared again on our various channels. Questions on requesting or donating supplies can be directed to 1-800-755-0394 ext. 3550. Abbie Boesterd will provide information to Colleen with the direct website link for the campaign.

7. Round Table
To date, there have been 38 complaints Town wide, or 110 complaints County wide to the OPP of concerns related to social distancing and groups larger than five.

8. Next Meeting
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment
Resolution #4
Moved by: Karen Devolin
Seconded by: Joe McGuire
THAT the May 6, 2020 COVID-19 Task Force meeting be adjourned at 10:28 a.m.
Carried