



I Love Thorndale Meeting Minutes- Monday November 14th

Focus: Safety

Welcome and Introductions- Welcomed Guests: Chris Traini (Middlesex County Engineer), Whitney McWilliam (Exec. Assistant to Jeff Yurek, MP), Kelly Elliott (Ward 1 Councillor, Thames Centre)

Discussion Groups:

County Roads & Other concerns included:

- Crosswalk gives the impression that pedestrians have the right of way, but in fact traffic is not obligated to yield to them
- The Crosswalk is not well marked and signage is hard to see especially when vehicles are parked along King Street
- Children must cross to get to their school bus stop near Sassy's (main street)
- There is no safe place to cross on King Street
- Concerns about vehicles speeding through town as well as people texting and driving
- East end & west end, heading out of Thorndale, people passing in the 70, as well as flying by westbound into town
- unsafe driving choices (passing on bends, passing multiple vehicles at once)
- Bridge sidewalk is too narrow, and in the winter it is frequently covered in ice and snow, this is a hazard
- King Street not wide enough for the amount of traffic and this challenge is compounded by having parking on both sides of the street
- Constant beeping and noise from TRS and Ideal Pipe

Ideas for consideration included (brainstorming groups):

- Community Safety Zone
- Lights at Brooker when Sifton Development is complete
- Crossings along King Street that allows pedestrians the right of way
- Rebuild the bridge
- Only parking on one side of King Street
- More OPP presence in town to ticket speeders, must ask for their support
- Reestablish the sign that is missing that warns of a speed change on Nissouri

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- Flashing lights on top of the speed signs
- Purchase a speed radar sign and move it around

Municipal Roads & Theft/Vandalism concerns included:

- Excessive speeding on Wyton Drive, Nissouri, Fairview
- Not enough street lighting on south side of King Street and on Queen Street
- Distracted drivers
- Running stop signs
- Bumpy Rail Road Crossing at Nissouri north of Dundas
- Construction traffic
- Speeding through 4-way stop at Elliott and Brooker in Wye Creek subdivision
- Traffic light not triggering (is set to a time, rather than triggers)
- Use of drones to scope out property
- Car/Garage break-ins
- Graffiti
- Fire Hall use and effect on traffic, access for emergency vehicles
- signage around school zone is too low to be seen when vehicles are parked

Ideas for consideration included (brainstorming group):

- Warning signs
- Radar signs
- Photo radar
- Post speed for school zone & raise height of existing signs
- Increase police enforcement
- Speed bumps
- Community Safety Zone
- Child-size 'cut-outs'
- Social media shaming
- Coloured pavement zones
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Cameras
- Increase police presence and enforcement
- More lighting
- Reminders posted to lock doors
- Signage indicating cameras in order to deter vandalism and theft

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- Youth Drop-In Centre
- More youth programming
- Increased citizen engagement
- Increase rural internet to provide community wifi spaces

County update and commitments (expressed by Chris Traini):

- Sewers planned for King Street in 2018 and this will provide an opportunity to change the road engineering and widen the bridge
- Current crosswalk doesn't meet the standards
- Municipality will determine where and if a crosswalk is established on King Street (council meeting on Dec 12; community encouraged to attend)
- Assessment was conducted by County to look at feasibility of a crosswalk at King Street and Fairview. It was established that not enough vehicle or pedestrian traffic to warrant a crosswalk in that location. However, it was stated by residents that this location is not representative of where pedestrians tend to cross King Street
- Crosswalk is warranted if you see 200 pedestrians crossing in the span of 8 hours, however the municipality can decide to establish a crosswalk anyway
- Any awareness signage needs to be moved around to be effective, people stop seeing it or stop being aware of it when it is a permanent structure
- Recommended that a letter is written to Brad Thompson to ask her OPP support and increased enforcement
- stressed residents need to keep reporting to OPP (speeding, theft, and other concerns)
- Local beautification making the community boundaries more obvious, providing something for drivers to enjoy/grab their attention (in turn slowing down), create a sense of pride. This must be done through local support as there is not funding through the County
- County is establishing a new town sign
- Will look into getting the signage replaced that indicated a change in speed limit on the outskirts of town
- generally reported that people don't respond to signs that say "Slow Down"
- Other communities have put planters along the roadside to limit parking and it was suggested that we could put these where the existing parking adjacent to the crosswalk (increase visibility for those crossing, further define the space. Planters must be moveable and be removed during the winter for snow removal)
- County is open to consider ideas for safety measures that other regions in Ontario have proved to be effective (can forward ideas to Chris)

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Municipal update and commitments (Kelly's responses to concerns and ideas):

- Kelly to bring concerns forward to Police Services Board and provide a connection to I Love Thorndale
- Will consider addressing the school zone and other signage and speed calming measures
- Kelly committed to following-up on the child cut-outs that are being piloted in London

Update as of November 26, 2016

- 1) CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC IN WYE CREEK SUBDIVISION: A letter was sent from Marc Bancroft (Middlesex County Senior Planner) to the subdivision developer regarding complaints of construction traffic and outlining the safety concerns, especially with the public school here, and to request that the developer contact all builders/sub-contractors/etc. to inform them they MUST use the construction entrance off of Nissouri Road. I am aware that the developer also emailed all builders to inform them of the concerns of the residents including construction traffic, not stopping for 4-way stops and speeding. There really is not much we can do to enforce the construction entrance in regards to by-laws. The only option is to put "No Heavy Truck" signs in the assumed phases, but the only way there would be any enforcement with this, is by the OPP. We can review this option if it continues to be a major concern, and there is OPP presence in the area
- 2) EXCESSIVE SPEEDING (WYE CREEK SUBDIVISION, RURAL ROADS, VILLAGE-KING ST): – I have sent a letter to the Police Services Board as the Ward Councillor outlining all of the concerns that were brought up in this meeting relating to the OPP, including speeding throughout the community. The letter was responded to by the PSB Chair, who informed me my letter is on the agenda for the next PSB meeting to be discussed, as well as it was forwarded to the OPP for review. I did mention in this letter the possibility of radar signs (affixed or moveable) for the community. I will follow up when I have more feedback from the PSB/OPP. Additionally, a speed survey was recently completed in 80 locations throughout the municipality – this information will be available to all of Council shortly.
- 3) RAILROADS CROSSINGS (spec. Nissouri Road by Dundas): – As I have mentioned before, the municipality has no authority whatsoever to maintain railway crossings. By law, this MUST be completed by the railway companies. New legislation has just come out that all crossing maintenance must be completed by 2020 across Canada.
- 4) SCHOOL ZONES: I am in discussions with Josh Morgan in London in regards to the child cut out project, to look at a project like that here. In the recent speed study that came out, Elliott Trail was one of the locations monitored, and the average speed in front of the school (Nissouri to Brooker) was 38 km/hr. This again comes down to OPP enforcement for speed and running 4-

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way stops, in which I addressed in my letter to PSB. There was also a concern in regards to the height of the school zone signs – they were too short, and have now been adjusted to the proper height.

5) VANDALISM/THEFT – This was also addressed in my letter to PSB/OPP in regards to increased police presence. I have also been in contact with staff if we can do some PSA reminders regarding locking doors, etc. on social media.

6) CROSSWALK – This maybe should have been on the top of my list! As discussed in the meeting, Chris Traini (Middlesex County Engineer) will be at the December 12th Council meeting to bring a report in regards to traffic studies and whether or not crosswalks are warranted. I also discussed several cost-effective options that are available for crosswalks with our Director of Operations and am currently working on some motions to get the ball moving to make sure we have money budgeting for crosswalks throughout the municipality, including Thorndale.

7) KING STREET + BRIDGE: Natural and other traffic-calming measures will be incorporated into the re-design of King Street. It was also suggested that a letter be provided to Middlesex County from the Thames Centre CAO on behalf of Council ensuring that these measures are put in. I have started the steps for the creation of this letter. Concerns regarding the width of the bridge, and sidewalks will also be in the redesign and reconstruction of King St.

Also, to address a couple other concerns:

1) YARD WASTE: Yard waste can be dropped off at the Thames Centre Landfill at no cost. The cost to adding another Yard Waste pick up day is approximately \$15,000 / pick up day. This can be considered in the budget if we are able to add another day.

2) GREEN LIGHT WARNING SIGNS: It was brought to my attention the need for signs that warn drivers that green flashing lights are our volunteer firefighters and to pull over when they see them. I brought this to our Director of Operations, and he is currently pricing out these signs, and will bring a report to Council in regards to the locations that we put them up in.

MPP commitments and considerations (Whitney's responses and commitments):

- Will provide information about what other communities are doing, mentioned funding for a Youth Centre and suggested that we connect the Centre that was established in St. Thomas
- Offered support for initiatives and projects on behalf of Jeff Yurek
- encouraged residents to continue to advocate for their community and bring ideas to Whitney/Jeff

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New Business:

-Laura Langford presented an opportunity for people to support a project regarding children's safety (former farm safety) program. She received funding to run an event and is looking for volunteers to support her to plan and execute this event

Concluding:

-ILT offered to post minutes on the website, follow-up with County and Municipality

Follow-up correspondence:

-Jane Elliott, developer for Wye Creek has communicated with builders and contractors (as she has in the past). Has reminded these workers of the speed, stop and safety concerns in the community. Notified them that increased OPP presence is likely in the area.

-I Love Thorndale has written a letter to council asking for support to provide a safe crossing on main street. Will presented at the next council meeting on Dec 12th. Community members that are able to attend are encouraged to do so. Signatures can be collected at ACE Hardware.

If you have any further concerns or suggestions, please contact us:
info@ilovethorndale.ca

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