

**Electronic German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**March 4, 2021**  
**5:00 PM**

**Attendance:**

<b>Members:</b> Councillor Keith Irish, Chair Yang Jingli Ted Kelly Edith Kangas Kimberly Seymour Bernard Sze	<b>Staff:</b> Morgan Jones, Director of Operations Christy Lehman, Animal Services Supervisor Negar Mahmoudi, Supervisor, Survey, Utility & Right-Of-Way Rob Grech, Senior Manager of Infrastructure Harvinder Saini, Provincial Offences Officer Supervisor Nory Takata, Parks Planner Barry Budhu, Senior Manager of Roads, Survey and Utility  <b>Guest:</b> Bob Penner  <b>Regrets:</b> Gail Lavery Regional Councillor Jack Heath
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**1. Call to Order**

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 5:01 PM with Councillor Keith Irish in the Chair.

**2. Introductory Remarks**

Councillor Irish welcomed the new Members to the German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting – March 5, 2020**

Moved by Kimberley Seymour  
Seconded by Bernard Sze

That the Minutes of the March 5, 2020 German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

#### **4. By-Law Comments for Issues Raised by Committee Members**

Harvinder Saini, Provincial Supervisor of By-Laws & Enforcement provided the following responses to the Committee's inquiries regarding by-law & enforcement matters:

##### **a. Dogs off leash**

Residents can contact the City's Contact Centre when they see a dog off leash. Tickets are issued to residents that get caught with their dogs off leash.

##### **b. E-bike, motorcycles, snow dog, ATV(boulder placement Operations)**

The City is in the process of updating its by-laws to regulate e-bikes and other types of electronic vehicles that are currently not regulated. Residents can contact the Contact Centre if they see someone using an e-vehicle in the park. Parking Officers can respond to calls after hours. Boulders have been placed strategically in the park to prevent the usage of electronic vehicles in the park.

Committee asked if the meadow could be patrolled on a regular basis. Harvinder Saini advised that By-Law Enforcement will start with taking friendly walks in the meadow.

##### **c. Air gun shooting at wildlife**

Resident should call the police if they feel they are in imminent danger due to a park patron shooting air guns at wildlife.

##### **d. Fires in the forested areas during summer months**

Residents can call the Contact Centre if they see people making a campfire in the meadow. The call will be directed to the City's Fire Services if the call is received afterhours. If there is a fire in the meadow a fire truck will be sent.

Committee inquired if Fire Services is able to open the gate on John Street if there is a fire in the meadow. Morgan Jones to confirm that all fire trucks have a cutter on them.

##### **e. Apply parking restriction at north end of Leslie**

Staff will request a transportation and engineering study be conducted to apply parking restrictions at the north end of Leslie.

It was noted that some parking should continue to be permitted in this location.

Staff were asked to check to see if there is no parking signs at the John Street entrance.

**f. Use of drones**

The City does not regulate drones, as air space is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. However, some municipalities are addressing drones through their by-laws.

**5. Update on management of the former landfill**

**a. Creek stabilization project (RG)**

Rob Grech, Senior Manager of Infrastructure provided an update on the Creek stabilization project. There is quite a lot of erosion in the meadow. Action needs to be taken to realign the watercourse to ensure it is protected. A stone wall was built in one area of the meadow to hold the watercourse. Pictures of the work that has been completed to date were displayed to the Committee.

**b. Bridge erosion (RG)**

Rob Grech advised that the next phase of the project will involve replacing a pedestrian bridge damaged from the erosion and protecting the sanitary sewer from the erosion. The Toronto Region and Conservation Area is leading the project, in consultation with the Region of York. The City is providing the funding for the replacement of the pedestrian bridge. The project design is targeted to be completed by the end of 2021. The construction of the project will begin in the fall of 2022 and will be completed in the winter of 2023. The project will take 4-6 months and the park will need to be closed for the duration of the project.

Rob Grech will consult with the TRCA on its plans for the Lake to Lake trail during the project.

Members can contact Phil Wolfrain, Project Manager, Erosion Manager, TRCA by emailing at [phil.wolfrain@trca](mailto:phil.wolfrain@trca) or by phone at 416-661-6600 ext. 5522 if they have any questions.

After this project is complete, additional restoration work will be done if required.

**c. 2020 Gas and Environmental monitoring results**

Negar Mahmoudi, Supervisor, Survey, Utility & Right-Of-Way provided an update on the 2020 Gas monitoring results. Most of the results were within acceptable levels or below the limit. There was some exceedance in one gas probe, but it was within historical results.

The biannual environmental monitoring has also been completed. Most of the results were at acceptable levels or below the limit.

**d. 2020 Header repair construction update and site grading (NM)**

Negar Mahmoudi provided an overview of the pipe replacement completed in 2020.

Committee noted that there is still a lot of erosion on the west side of the meadow.

Bob Penner advised that the work was completed on the west side of the meadow in 2018 -19, but there was hope at the time that more work could be done in this section when the work on the northern section was being undertaken.

Staff agreed to do a site visit with the Committee to view the erosion that is occurring on the west side of the meadow, and to look into grass seeding in the north west corner of the park.

**e. 2021 Planned monitoring well installation, repair and decommissioning**

Negard Mahmoudi provided an overview of the planned upgrades to the gas and environmental monitoring systems to be completed in 2021.

**f. 2020 completed maintenance/replacement works of minor assets (blower motor, BGCC indoor methane sensor, generator station)**

Negard Mahmoudi provided an overview of the other maintenance/replacement works of minor assets completed in 2020.

**g. Chips in pathway restoration**

Nory Takata, Park Planner advised that woodchips will be added to the top loop of the Meadow.

**h. Slope into Ravine from Cottonwood South Entrance**

In response to concerns from the Committee regarding the slope into the meadow from the Cottonwood South Entrance, Staff agreed to look at the slope at this entrance of the meadow to see if it could be re-graded.

**i. Additional fill opportunity (NM)**

Staff agreed to look at the west side of the meadow to see if the area needs to be re-graded.

**6. Environmental initiatives to enhancing the meadow**

**a. Investigation for removal of strangling vines**

Nory Takata advised that the moth traps will be left out longer this year to see if it helps with the removal of the strangling vines.

Staff will inspect the vines and assist with removing vines that were cut down by residents.

**b. Confirming if fishing is allowed**

Nory Takata advised that fishing is permitted in the Meadow until September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions regarding fishing in the meadow, please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 1877-847-7667.

**c. Investigation for reduced size of meadow for bird nesting due to tree planting**

Nory Takata advised that there is less bird nesting in the meadow due to the planting of trees. Staff tried to re-plant trees in the same location they were removed from.

**d. Confirm the feasibility of planting butterfly gardens or some type of pollinators like raspberry bushes**

Nory Takata advised there is an opportunity to have a larger pollinator garden this year. The location of the garden will be determined on the site visit to the meadow.

**e. Possibility of installing Poaching Signage**

Staff suggested calling 911 and or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry TIPS Hotline if they see someone poaching animals.

**f. Clarification for large presence of golden rod on the west side**

Nory Takata advised that it should not be of concern that golden rod is growing in the west side of the meadow, as it is not a plant that people are typically allergic to. People may think that they are allergic to it as it flowers around the same time as ragweed, but typically people are allergic to ragweed.

Staff did not plant lambs quarter in the west side of the meadow, but it could have been in the soil when the area was regraded.

Staff will look at the lambs quarter growing in the west side of the meadow, as part of the site visit.

**g. Unauthorized trails crossing the meadow on the west side of the river**

Nory Takata suggested temporarily barricading the informal trail and placing a sign saying it is not a trail, but noted it would not be very nice looking.

The unauthorized trails will be looked at as part of the site visit.

**h. Mowing the meadow**

Committee reminded staff that nesting season is starting soon, and that extra precautions need to be taken when mowing the meadow.

**i. Do not pick flower signs**

The no flower signs will be looked at as part of the site visit.

**j. Additional tree planting and other plantings**

Nory Takata advised that there could be additional tree planting in the Meadow during phase 2 of the tree planting.

**k. Memorial Tree Planting application process**

Nory Takata advised that it cost \$500 to have a memorial tree planted. A copy of the application was requested to be provided to the Committee at the site visit.

**l. Grass and species of plantings**

A Low Grow Native Grass Seed mix and Type C approved mulch with annual Rye Nurse crop was used to restore the areas disturbed by the construction project. The mix included 25% Fowl Bluegrass, 30% Canada Wild Rye, 15% Little Bluestem and 30% Sand Dropseed.

The grass species included in the mix are well suited to the site conditions in this part of the meadow and meet the essential criteria for the height and density of vegetation sought out for nest building sites.

## **7. Other Business**

The Committee Clerk was requested to book a site visit of the meadow prior to the end of the month. All Committee Members are welcome to attend.

## **8. Adjournment**

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee adjourned at 7:03 PM.