

**German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee**

**October 18, 2017**

**Building Boardroom**

**3:00 p.m.**

<b><u>Committee Members</u></b> Councillor Valerie Burke Kimberly Seymour Bernard Sze Gail Lavery John Saul Jeffrey Safajou  <b>Regrets</b> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath	<b><u>Staff</u></b> Nory Takata, Parks Planner Robert Penner, Manager of Utilities Surveys & Assets Database Morgan Jones, Director, Operations Josh Machesney, Acting Legislative Coordinator, Committee Clerk
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The German Mills Meadow and Natural Habitat Liaison Committee convened at 3:02 pm with Kimberly Seymour presiding as Chair.

**1. Approval of the May 3, 2017 German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**2. TRCA Presentation – Work Along German Mills Creek**

Matt Johnston and Phil Wolfrain from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority were present to provide a presentation on the work that is being completed along the German Mills Creek. Matt informed the Committee that the TRCA is working in partnership with the Region of York to monitor the water and wastewater infrastructure, particularly stream-based erosion, and to provide recommendations on how to prevent and repair the infrastructure.

Matt advised that the TRCA is currently undertaking a sewer infrastructure protection project, and provided an overview of the stages of the project that had already been complete. Overall, there were 18 hazard sites that were found to have endangered the sanitary line along the creek since 2011.

Phil provided an overview of three upcoming projects to priority sites that will be completed by 2020. Phil advised that construction to first priority site, located at the north end of the creek, is planned to commence January 2018. He described the hazard as the sanitary line being at risk of exposure as a result of river erosion. The proposed solution is to put in woody bank protection over the sanitary line, which will in turn improve the immediate aquatic and terrestrial habitats. Matt advised that the park trail will be closed between January and March for this construction.

### **3. Gas and Environmental Monitoring Results – 2017**

Bob Penner, Manager of Utilities Surveys & Assets Database provided an update on the results of the 2017 gas and environmental monitoring in the area. He advised that there were no abnormal results, and that the results were similar to those of 2016.

### **4. Repair of the Gas System**

Bob Penner provided an update on the repair of the gas system. He informed the Committee that the areas of concern were budget allowance for the funding of the repair and Ministry of Natural Resource (MNR) approval to expend the length of the repair. He advised that the City has asked the MNR to extent the timing of the repair until the spring as it is an isolated area. He expects the first part of the repair to commence in spring 2018, with the second part being completed in 2019. He advised that soil testing will be done during construction, and that as a result of the concern of contaminated soil in the area, environmental fencing will be more comprehensive than originally anticipated.

### **5. Fill Project for Backyards Bordering the Meadow**

Bob Penner provided an update on the fill project for backyards bordering the meadow. He asked the Committee for a list of participants who are interested in the project. Morgan Jones, Director, Operations, advised that the City will follow up with those who attended the public meeting via email, and that letters including the project's strategy and schedule will be sent to residents. Currently, the project is awaiting MNR response for commencement.

### **6. Stairway Repair at Cottonwood**

Bob Penner advised that the City is currently working to repair the stairway. There is no firm completion date, but it is expected that it will be finished by the end of 2017. Bob further advised that the stairway will be concrete with a median rail.

### **7. Pollinator Garden**

Nory Takata, Parks Planner, informed the Committee that beginning next week, Staff will create strips of garden in the meadow. These gardens will feature 8-9 types of densely planted plant species. He mentioned that by creating strips of garden that they are easier to maintain.

### **8. Japanese Knotwood – Update**

Nory Takata reminded the Committee that the treatment program for this invasive species commenced in the summer, and eradication will require two or more years of active management.

### **9. Wood Chips**

Kimberley Seymour, Chair, provided an update on the wood chips. She advised that they were recently chipped and that they look great.

### **10. Regrading Along Roadway and Behind the Homes**

Kimberley Seymour, Chair, provided an update on the regrading along the roadway behind homes. She announced that it has recently been completed and looks great.

### **11. Decommissioned Equipment**

Bob Penner provided a brief overview of the decommissioned equipment in the meadow. He advised that there are two types of equipment – pipes and wells/chambers – that are currently decommissioned. It was noted that only three wells are currently decommissioned and they will be removed with the repair of the Gas System/Fill project.

### **12. Garbage Containers**

Nory Takata provided an update on garbage containers in the meadow. He advised that dome-lidded receptacles are currently being tested to reduce wildlife access and better containment of garbage under windy conditions. He further advised that more of them are on order and will be installed in spring 2018.

Bob mentioned that he will ask David Plan to prepare a comprehensive plan to prevent citizens from dumping household garbage at the receptacles.

### **13. Work Plan for 2017-2018**

Bob Penner presented the work plan as follows:

- 1) Gas Collection Pipe Replacement
- 2) Repair of Gas System
- 3) Pollinator Garden

### **14. Committee Vacancy Process**

Kimberley Seymour inquired about the committee vacancy process. Josh Machesney, Committee Clerk advised that he would follow up with Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator regarding this process.

### **15. Other Business**

Bernard Sze inquired about getting more permanent signage for the German Mills Meadow. Nory Takata advised that the City will look into it. Bob Penner advised that he will follow up with the Chair of the Public Realm Committee as they have taken on a project regarding public notices.

### **16. Next Meeting**

Kimberley Seymour, Chair, will coordinate with Laura Gold to schedule a meeting date in February/March 2018.

### **17. Adjournment**

German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison Committee

October 18, 2017

Page 4 of 4

The German Mills Meadow & Natural Habitat Liaison committee adjourned at 4:08 p.m.