



SMITHS FALLS FOR ALL MINUTES

Thursday, March 13, 2025– 9:00AM.
TOWN HALL- COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Mayor Shawn Pankow, Chair

Members Present:	Chair, Shawn Pankow Member, Katie Hoffman Member, Mitra Ghaffari Member, Joanne Desormeaux Member, Nicole Croteau Member, Diana Cave Member, Lynda Bradford Member, Janet Sinclair
Absent:	Vice Chair, Elle Halladay Council Representative, P McKenna Member, Sean Keogan
Staff Present:	Staff Resource, K Costello

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Chair Pankow read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pankow called the meeting to order at 9:01AM

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: D Cave

Seconded by: K Hoffman

THAT the March 13, 2025 Smiths Falls For All Committee Meeting Agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: N Croteau

Seconded by: J Desormeaux

THAT the February 20, 2025 Smiths Falls For All Committee Meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

5. DISCLOSURE OF MONETARY INTEREST: None noted.

6. DELEGATIONS

A) Karl Grenke, Manager of Development Services

Additional Residential Units & Community Improvement Plan

Presentation attached as Appendix A. Council has recently opened all the programs for the Community Improvement Plan. Deadline for applications is March 31st. Additional Housing Units and Additional Residential Units are included in the programs. There could potentially be a Fall intake if all funds are not used up. K Grenke noted that 44 Chambers Street has been the most rewarding project to date. Residential units that are close to downtown/stores and a bonus of being affordable.

L Bradford questioned if there were any plans for Robinson Ave. S Pankow advised that the Town has an agreement with Carebridge for this property. They have a project underway in Perth currently. They are interested in something on Robinson Avenue but the issue will be funding. County has an initiative underway to assist with affordable housing – hoping that Carebridge will submit a proposal for this property. K Grenke advised that the property is zoned for a medium density residential development. Development will fit within the neighbourhood and create some density.

7. PRIORITY ISSUES

1. Food Insecurity Draft Resolution (S Pankow)

The group reviewed the proposed motion.

D Cave asked if our motion should include a clause that denotes the successes the City of Kingston has had since their declaration. How many people in Smiths Falls will be food insecure in 2026?

M Ghaffari asked what are the immediate actions we can do to address this in Smiths Falls? (i.e. food gardens/food baskets). Look at lands that are not being used and look at gardening programs (add to food insecurity pillar). S Pankow advised that this would possibly be an item the Town would collaborate on.

2. Allyship Pamphlet

N Croteau advised that the “sub-group” will be meeting today and going to have a draft for the next meeting.

3. Smiths Falls/Canada-Ukraine Twin Cities (S Pankow)

S Pankow gave the group a brief update on the twinning initiative. Chief Chesebrough looking to see if there is any fire equipment that can be sent. There is a conduit to get things to the Ukraine. Mayor will be presenting a city to twin with at the next Committee of the Whole. Want to get community involved (i.e. pen pals with students at the local high school. Hope this group can help in coming up with ways we can build bridges with the people in the Ukraine. M Ghaffari thought it would be great if we could change a street name to honour the Ukraine.

To be brought forward as new info becomes available.

4. Year at a Glance / Planning for 2025 / Priorities

M Ghaffari noted that the group should use the survey results as a guide to make priorities.

N Croteau questioned if we could we take a meeting and discuss each pillar separately. One person/small working groups would be a champion for that pillar.

“Newcomer Event” - M Ghaffari mentioned holding more of an open house model and change the name so it is open to everyone. S Pankow advised this would mean bringing in many of our local organizations that work within these pillars. This would be a major opportunity but would give people an opportunity to connect with organizations. M Ghaffari mentioned have community leaders come and discuss what their municipalities are facing. Interested in having someone from the Legion to discuss what they do in the community. Also, someone from Victoria House.

D Cave commented on having a representative from Lanark County Mental Health as a delegation. Need to advocate the “calls to action” in the food insecurity resolution. D Cave to email provider of produce baskets to see if they can be provided at a more affordable cost? Inclusivity should focus on accessibility as well. Town becomes inaccessible in the winter.

K Hoffman reminded all that the Rideau Environmental Action League (REAL) has 12 public gardens however they are usually full. \$25 for the summer. Tools are available. REAL has a tool library. Water is there but people must bring seeds. M Ghaffari thought that perhaps the Town could budget for seeds or people could donate seeds.

S Pankow noted that there is a lot of greenspace in Town that could be used. Property owners could share their space. Develop a program and have volunteers to carry the ball but would need a coordinator (someone to do intake, vet the properties, etc). Asked for a volunteer to take this on and do some research. S Pankow mentioned about using a community park for

a community garden and possibly consult with the local Horticultural Society.

S Pankow reminded all that this group is an Advisory Committee. We can promote and help support. Need to focus on items that can be achieved. Bring forward.

J Sinclair, D Cave and J C and J Desormeaux volunteered to plan an “open house”. Thinking of late August. Bring forward.

Group would like diversity/inclusion training as well has have Linda Tranter from the Legal Clinic In Perth present.

5. Interim Report (K Costello)

K Costello asked all to review the Interim Report and advise of any changes. Four “pillars” to be amended to reflect a circular model. K Costello to update report and bring forward to upcoming meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

A) February 26, 2025, Email from Matt Noble, Executive Director, Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank
Put Food Banks Out of Business Postcards + In The News Information only.

9. IN-CAMERA ISSUES (None)

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: April 10, 2025 @ 9 a.m.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (K Costello)

A) Diversity Training Update (N Bennett)

B) Currently in the Cultural Plan: Launch educational campaigns within the community to foster inclusion (J Crowder)

C) Rainbow Registry Delegation

12. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: K Hoffman

Seconded by: D Cave

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:38 AM and stand so adjourned until the next duly called meeting.