



**Trees for Minto Committee Minutes
Thursday, February 1, 2018 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers**

Members Present:

Councillor Judy Dirksen, Annilene McRobb, Jared James, Edwin Martin, Hayley Murray, Judy Dirksen, Rob Johnson, Paul Judge, Paul Martin and Melvin Steckle

Member Regrets: Jonas Martin, Terry Fisk, Ron Faulkner and Linda Redmond

1. Call to Order 7:12 p.m.

Chair Jared James introduced the new representative for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, Hayley Murray Assistant Stewardship Technician.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Trees for Minto Minutes of November 23, 2017

MOTION:

Moved by: Melvin Steckle Seconded by: Rob Johnson

THAT the November 23, 2017 Trees for Minto Minutes be accepted.

Carried

3. Reports

- a. 2018 Budget update

Annilene McRobb presented the 2018 draft budget to the committee. The committee discussed selling 100 fruit trees with a \$5 discount and offer a maximum of 2 trees per household. Rob will confirm prices and availability of trees. The Committee discussed future sales that could be themed based, such as pollinator trees (Birds, Bees and Trees) or Nut

Trees. The committee does not want to compete with local nurseries but just get people involved in planting more trees.

MOTION:

Moved by: Rob Johnson; Seconded by: Paul Martin

THAT the Trees for Minto Committee sell fruit trees in 2018 at a discounted rate.

Carried

b. Rob Johnson, Growing a Hazelnut Orchard

Rob Johnson presented information on growing a hazelnut orchard noting that the type of hazelnut tree we would be purchasing would be filbert blight resistant and good yielding coming in at one foot high and growing to approximately 12 feet height and 6 feet wide. The trees will begin to produce nuts in 3 to 5 years and full yield in 8 years. Johnson noted that having plots in a couple different locations will allow you to look at yield in regards to their growth in different locations and soil. The LEAF program at Norwell may be interested in helping out with this initiative and we would be able to show economic viability of this perennial agricultural. These test plots will be able to show data to those that may be interested in this type of agriculture as these are an easily sold product.

The committee discussed parameters to be set for the program.

For a one acre 323 hazel nut trees would be planted, Johnson state that other trees be planted as well for pollination. Green Legacy would provide al materials needed for this project with exception to the hazel nut trees. The committee will consider either 3 -1/3 acre plots or 2 -1/2 acre plots dependant on the plots to be considered. Any members that are interested in having a demonstration plot are to contact Rob Johnson and he will look at the viability of their plots and will present his findings at the next meeting.

MOTION:

Moved by: Hayley Murray

Seconded by: Melvin Steckle

That the Trees for Minto Committee plant hazel nut demonstration plots in 2018.

Carried

4. Roundtable Discussion

Hayley Murray reminded the committee that the MVCA has \$3,000 for signage and the committee may use this for the demo plots in parks and at community gardens. The committee will discuss this further at the next meeting.

The committee suggested advertising in the paper and put info the tax bill insert regarding fence rows for line fences and then look at hosting a meeting in regards to this. Jared will write an article on windbreaks and provide it to Annilene who will contact the media so we can get this information out to the public on the benefits of these windbreaks.

5. Adjournment 9:02 p.m.