

Minutes of a Meeting of the General Membership of the Harmony Residents Group Inc. on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 in the Virgil Arena Mary Snider Room.

This meeting began at 7:10 PM with 19 people present including 4 members of the Group Board of Directors.

R.Busbridge spoke briefly, telling members that he and D.Hennessey will serve on the Town Traffic Committee which plans to meet later this month but, at present, no new information is available. He urged members to attend a public reception to be held on Sunday, January 17, 2010 from 1 to 3 PM in the Delphi Banquet Hall, 4414 Portage Road in Niagara Falls, sponsored by our member of parliament, to tell him of the Group opposition to the Project Niagara proposal and its plans for an ecological park, and to write to federal government ministers of finance, culture, environment and tourism to urge them to provide no money to support the Project Niagara proposal.

He introduced the topic for the evening, the first question in his e-mail of January 5, which is the principles which the Group should adopt to guide its promotion of an ecological park for the Parks Canada Lakeshore property, stressing that the Group vision must go beyond mere opposition to Project Niagara with the need to prepare a site plan, a building design and, later, economic estimates of the revenue/expense relationship of activities on the site.

K.Morrison provided some information about the Group, a current membership of 80, 700 signatures on a petition opposing Project Niagara from town residents and another 300 from outsiders. He cited the need for membership renewals, at a cost of \$25 per household, to pay for notices and advertisements, then asked for 20 people to form a telephone committee to contact members and petition signatories.

There were several comments about possible activities on the Lakeshore site but R.Busbridge urged people to reserve these for the next session which would be devoted to this matter, and to concentrate on the principles which the Group should adopt in preparing a proposal for the use of this land.

Valuable comments were forthcoming from Dave Eke, Bill ?, D.Hennessey, Shirley ?, Murray ?, Jane ?, B.Morrison, Elizabeth ?, and others. What seemed to emerge from these was that politicians need a proposal on paper to focus their attention, accompanied by some strong statements, to increase its appeal, that whatever is adopted should be compatible with Parks Canada mandate to preserve and present, should generate revenue, be self sufficient and economically viable, but not compete directly with other Parks Canada sites such as Fort George, but complement them as well as other recreational activities in town, the object being not to bring more people here during peak tourist periods but to provide visitors with an added attraction that will cause them to lengthen their stay but, whatever is done, public access to the site must be ensured and commercial impact kept to an absolute minimum, the essence of our principles being to create a legacy for our progeny, our moral and ethical responsibility.

Some interesting suggestions were the possible combination of the Interpretive Centre building design with the reconstruction of the existing sewage plant, minimizing first cost and environmental impact while providing a facility useable for meetings, lectures (one member volunteered to lecture one day per week with no fee), limited exhibits, energy efficient, environmentally friendly and easily capable of modest expansion. A meeting between architect D.Parker and the Waste Water Treatment Plant design engineers seemed to be suggested but

whatever is undertaken on this land should be done gradually because a great advantage of the Group concept is that it does not require large capital expenditures or large financial commitments by governments, can start small and grow with time.

R.Busbridge promised further sessions to deal with recreational activities, education, research, building design and economics, then thanked people for their attendance and participation.

This meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Cliff James