



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 16th, 2023

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Oxford County Administration Building
(Room 129)

1. Call the Meeting to Order (10:00 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcus Ryan at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was present.

2. Review of Agenda for meeting of October 16th, 2023

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: Bernia Wheaton
 Seconded by: Randy Peltz

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of October 16th, 2023 be approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

3. Review of Minutes of September 14th, 2023 meeting

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: Tina Diamond
 Seconded by: Bernia Wheaton

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of September 14th, 2023 be approved as presented.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

4. Next Steps:

a. Draft Letter to all Oxford Municipalities re: proposed changes to the Safe and Well Oxford Plan to include goals and objectives in relation to gender-based violence (attached)

The Committee reviewed the draft letter prepared to send to all Oxford Municipalities to request that the Safe and Well Oxford plan be amended to include goals and objective in relation to gender-based violence. The Committee also reviewed draft content for the amended plan for this risk area.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by: Randy Peltz
 Seconded by: Bernia Wheaton

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee approve-in-principle the draft letter to all Oxford Municipalities regarding proposed changes to the Safe and Well Oxford Plan to include goals and objectives in relation to gender-based violence as amended and as in consultation with the Domestic Abuse Response Team.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

b. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition – update

Ayesha Sajid provided the Committee with an update following the first meeting of the DEI Action Coalition that was held in September. The Committee will meet again on October 23rd, 2023. The Committee has reviewed their Terms of Reference and are in the planning stages of developing a community agreement and an inclusion charter for Oxford County. More discussion regarding the committee’s action plan will follow.

Discussion took place regarding police services attendance and involvement on the DEI Action Coalition. Marcus Ryan and Julie Middleton will reach out to local police services to discuss in more detail.

c. Town of Ingersoll Resolution re: Local Encampment Protocol (attached)

Julie Middleton advised the Committee that a resolution from the Town of Ingersoll was received regarding the development of a local encampment protocol. It was requested that the resolution be shared with the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee for comment.

Discussion took place regarding existing organizations that provide response and support to local encampments. The Town is encouraged to continue open dialogue and consultation with these organizations and individuals through the development of their encampment protocol. It was agreed that a local approach is appropriate. Different communities will have various needs when providing response and support – each municipality may wish to address these policy needs for their own areas. A partnership between county supports and the local municipality is encouraged when it comes to encampments.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by: Randy Peltz
 Seconded by: Kelly Black

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee refer the Town of Ingersoll Resolution re: local encampment protocol to the Oxford Housing Action Collaborative for further comment and input.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

[d. Safe and Well Oxford Summit: November 24th, 2023 – Cowan Park Sportsplex Gymnasium](#)

Sarah Hamulecki provided an update for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee regarding the proposed Safe and Well Oxford Summit scheduled on November 24th, 2023. She advised that individuals will be required to register in advance and advise which organization they are coming from – it is hoped that one individual from each organization will attend – capacity is limited. The invitation will go out this week.

The goal of the Safe and Well Oxford Summit is to refocus individuals and organizations that are engaged in work related to Safe and Well Oxford to have a better understanding of who is doing what to avoid duplication and to provide clarity about the role of the Safe and Well Oxford Sterring Committee when it comes to challenges and additional support that may be required. Following the Summit, a survey will be issued to gather feedback about whether attendees find the event valuable or not.

Each of the existing Action Coalitions will prepare and present an update in terms of what they have been working on. A breakout session will follow for networking and to brainstorm needs within the community in terms of prevention. The Committee will meet again in advance of the Safe and Well Oxford Summit to discuss final details. Sarah will provide a draft agenda for the committee's review.

Sarah, Randy and Tina will meet to finalize the invitation list.

e. Safe and Well Oxford Resources and Funding

The Committee discussed the fact that several organizations have come forward with request for additional funding and office/work space. A potential Safe and Well Oxford funding/grant application process was discussed – discussion also took place regarding how this may be funded in partnership with area municipalities.

It was noted that the province requires municipalities, by legislation, to prepare a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan; however, this requirement does not come with any additional funding. The ultimate goal of the Community Safety and Well-being Plan being to reduce the need for police and emergency service intervention and response. The Community Safety and Well-being Plan is intended to focus on preventative measures.

The Committee needs to obtain a better understanding of what the Action Coalitions (and other community partners) need in terms of funding and for what purpose. This would help the Steering Committee identify gaps in service. Oxford municipalities have asked the County of Oxford to take the lead on implementation of the Safe and Well Oxford plan; however, this is still a partnership to move towards achieving the goals contained within the Plan.

Discussion took place regarding how other municipalities that have approved a joint Community Safety and Well-being Plan are working towards implementation together in partnership. Sarah will look into this in more detail (Perth County, Middlesex County as local examples) to gather more information.

5. Next Meeting Date:

Monday, November 13th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Oxford County Administration Building.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.