

WVCA Minutes, June 20, 2011
Fisher Park School, Room 112 (first floor), 6:45-7:45

Present: David Haskins, Catherine James-McGuinty, Vivian Knapp, Duff McLeod, Bill Mohrmann-Watson, Katie Paris, Jason Thomson, Trevor Pritchard (OpenFile Ottawa)

Regrets: Rick Van Loon, Susan Kennedy, David Lindsay

- 1) **Approval of minutes from April meeting** – not discussed, though the April minutes are already posted on the WVCA website. May AGM minutes are nearly complete.
- 2) **Presentation on OpenFile Ottawa by Trevor Pritchard.**

OpenFile (www.openfile.ca) is a local news website powered by story ideas submitted by readers – 'journalism on demand'. Files are opened on community issues (intensification is one such topic), and when the file attains a certain level of activity, an OpenFile reporter is assigned to the issue to do a story, which leads to comments and new threads of discussion. OpenFile was started in Toronto with seed money. Trevor offered to organise an opening night for OpenFile in Wellington Village (to answer questions and show how the site works) at a location of our choice if WVCA is interested.

3) **Recap of May 17 AGM (Thyme and Again)**

Bill was thanked for organizing the space at Thyme and Again, which everyone agreed worked well. Cost to WVCA was \$172. Unfortunately the WVCA letter to the Citizen in response to statements contained in an article about the convent development proposal was not printed.

- 4) **Selection of WVCA Board positions for 2011-2012** – deferred to September meeting. Current positions will apply until then.
- 5) **Infill working group: update regarding formalizing a set of recommendations of zoning changes** (Katie)

The infill working group arose following the study which Selma Hassan of the Planning Dept headed up last year, and presented at a WVCA Town Hall. The group is discussing possible modifications to the current zoning bylaw, e.g. possibility of front yard parking, stipulation that grade changes can't be used to bump up height, strengthening of currently ineffective tree protection by-law. Katie noted that 95% of projects in Hintonburg are outside the 'zoning box'.

Katie noted that she spoke with Councillor Hobbs to make her aware of the Infill Working Group, and was invited by the Councillor to attend a briefing of councillors by Planning Dept staff on June 21 on the subject. Katie offered to continue leading efforts to pull together a clear set of zoning priorities for the WVCA.

6) **Update on letter on the relationship between the Official Plan and Secondary Plans** (Duff)

There was agreement that Duff's letter should be sent to Jim Watson with Councillor Hobbs copied as soon as the Sept meeting date is finalized.

7) **Next meeting:** the September meeting was tentatively set for Monday September 12. At this point no meetings are scheduled to take place during the summer (if there is one, it will be in August).