**Minutes of an Emergency meeting of the NECA board,**

**Nov. 10, 2016. 9pm. 255 MacKay St.**

Present: Tim Plumptre, Natasha Cappon, Phil Nowotny, Santiago Reyes, Joe Chouinard, Cindy Parkanyi, David Slinn, Ann Davis, Debra Conner, Sean Flynn, Sylvain Belanger, Ted Bennett, Jennifer Irwin Jackson and Christina Leadlay (acting as secretary). Approximately 40 New Edinburgh residents were also in attendance as guests. Councillor Tobi Nussbaum and his assistant Laura Mueller were also present for part of the meeting.

Absent: Roslyn Butler and Gail McEachern.

This was the first time the 2016-2017 NECA Board had gathered since it was elected at the Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2016.

For an hour prior to the official board meeting (starting at 8pm), residents and the board engaged in a discussion on the Combined Sewage Storage Tunnel (CSST). The guests raised many questions and points. Joe Chouinard, Natasha Cappon, Tim Plumptre and Sean Flynn reported on their meeting with City Officials and Tobi Nussbaum, which took place Nov. 2. Environmental, health, engineering and safety concerns were raised and discussed. A report from the Nov. 2 meeting will be presented as soon as it is completed. Christina Leadlay agreed to post it on the CSST page on the community website.

Around 9p.m., the board meeting official began. Joe started with the election of officers. Tim Plumptre stood unchallenged for the role of president. Cindy Parkanyi stood unchallenged for the role of Treasurer, and Roslyn Butler (in absentia) stood unchallenged for the role of secretary. Some guests expressed their unhappiness with the previous NECA board, its perceived lack of action on CSST and with its choice of officers. Tim acknowledged the feelings mentioned, but noted that the choice of NECA officers was the responsibility of directors. If there were some individuals who disliked the board’s choice of officers, the appropriate way to effect change was to seek election to the board at the AGM.

Tim, Cindy and Roslyn were acclaimed to their roles by the board members.

Joe continued by putting forth two motions for the board’s approval. The first had two parts:

1. That NECA immediately undertakes any and all appropriate direct and indirect actions deemed necessary to stop or mitigate to the fullest extent possible, the planned CSST activities as presented by the City of Ottawa at an October 27, 2016 public information session.

2. That NECA immediately seek legal advice directed toward securing an injunction that would halt all work relating to “Site 5” of the CSST.

An amendment was proposed by guest Henry Patterson, which Joe agreed to put forth as a third part of the motion:

3. That a NECA Task Force on the CSST, composed of NECA Board members and members of the community be established immediately to conduct the necessary research to assist the board in implementing the above motions.

Sylvain Belanger seconded Joe’s motion. Phil Nowotny noted that the number of people on the task force should be limited. The motion passed.

Joe then put forward a second motion: Be it resolved that NECA immediately seeks legal advice directed toward securing an injunction that would halt all work relating to “Site 5” of the CSST. Sean seconded the motion.

Sylvain wondered if a certain amount of money needed to be set aside for legal consultation. Cindy noted NECA had approx. $13,000 in the bank. Phil said NECA board members should ask the community to see if there would be a lawyer willing to support us. Ted Bennett said he would look into the approximate cost of legal counsel and would report back to the board with his findings on November 15.

The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy noted that it was important to go on the record with the City of Ottawa, either in a letter or an email, to establish that NECA has an issue with the CSST. She had prepared a draft letter that NECA could send to the city, and will make it available to the board.

Santiago said the CSST in New Edinburgh is not just an inconvenience, but also a health threat. Legal costs should not be an issue. He said a major issue such as this should be brought to the media’s attention.

Ann Davis said these points should fall under the auspices of the CSST working group. She moved that Joe be the chair of the working group. Tim seconded her motion, and asked if anyone had any interest in joining the working group.

Henry Patterson said he nominated Sean Flynn to chair the group. Sean thanked Henry for his support but conceded he was too busy to be chair of the group. It was suggested that Sean could be Joe’s co-chair, to which Sean agreed.

The friendly amendment to Ann’s motion, that Sean and Joe co-chair the CSST working group, was seconded by Phil and passed by the board.

Cindy noted she would include reference to New Edinburgh being a flagship Heritage Conservation District in a letter she was drafting to the Mayor. Tim said NECA would review Cindy’s letter and subject to the views of board members, it could be sent after the board meeting.

Tim also noted that a careful balance would be needed when getting the media on board the CSST issue due to the possibility that New Edinburgh could be perceived as trying to hold up an important environmental initiative of the City out of self-interest.

Cindy proposed asking former board member Sarah Anson-Cartwright to assist with the media relations on the CSST issue for NECA. Jennifer Irwin Jackson said she would be happy to help with media relations, but could not take the lead.

Joe noted there would be sub-groups on the CSST issue: environmental research, communications, legal options, etc. Points were raised about heritage concerns, the impact on Beechwood businesses and the loss of the park’s social value during the dig.

Phil expressed concern that the Oct. 27 info session had a lack of transparency, that questions and answers were apparently not recorded, and that the info session was being billed as a community consultation (also a concern of Tobi’s). On Oct. 27, Tobi had asked residents to sign up to be part of a large working group. Joe asked whether anyone who had signed up had yet been contacted. No one had.

Natasha noted that on the community listserves, many residents expressed interest in helping NECA on the CSST issue, and asked how NECA should contact them. Ann suggested waiting until Sean and Joe had set up the sub-committees in the working group and then asking residents to join. Natasha agreed.

Tim asked the board members to please consider how they wish to be involved in this initiative.

Cindy asked whether the working group might look at research and options, or might it be more helpful for the board to give an overview of the strategy on how to proceed. Should it be a two-pronged attack: looking into how stopping the dig in the park whilst also looking how to lessen the impact of the dig (if first option is impossible).

Santiago noted the community’s sense of urgency, and said that priority must be given to legal action to halt the dig. Then a decision can be taken on remediation initiatives.

David Slinn said NECA’s public priority should be to implement Joe’s resolutions and to show a resolutely firm face while doing research into what action to take.

Ann added that the short-term goal and first priority would be to explore legal action, but that this should not prevent other tactics from going ahead.

Sean moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Phil. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 8:30 p.m. at 255 MacKay St.