

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a hybrid meeting on the 16th day of July, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Bill Neilson and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk, and Kaitlin Dinnick, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator, were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White advised that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Announcements

Mayor White advised that effective July 15th, 2026 there is a fire ban for all of Dufferin County.

Councillor Neilson advised that the Touch a Truck Event at the Horning's Mills Community Park is on August 8th, 2026 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and that from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. will be a sensory hour.

Mayor White Recognized Township Employee Paul Prentice's on 20 Years of Service with the Township in the Public Works Department.

Additions

Township Commenting Letter – Duivenvoorden ERO# 026-0536 – CAO/Clerk

Official Plan Conformity Exercise Statutory Public Meeting Schedule - CAO/Clerk

Dufferin County OPA 5 Letter - CAO/Clerk

Reggae Fest 2026 – 159127 Highway 10

Deletions

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that Council approve the Agenda as amended. Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Mayor White advised that disclosure of pecuniary interest can be declared at this time or anytime throughout the meeting by giving the general nature thereof and that declarations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing.

Minutes

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson, that Council approve the minutes of the June 18th, 2026 Council Meeting as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege

None.

Public Question Period

Shaen Armstrong, member of the public voiced concern on how the ARA Duivenvoorden Public Meeting was done and was unhappy that they selected a newspaper that was not local and that Microsoft Teams is not a very assessable platform and a meeting like this should take place in person.

Deputy Mayor McLean wants to request a meeting or phone call with the Director at the Ministry regarding this.

Public Works

Accounts

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson, that Council receive the Public Works Accounts as presented. Carried.

Recommendation Report for Tender 01-2026

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that Council award Tender 01-2026 to Cox Construction Limited in the amount of \$391,723.97, inclusive of HST. The project must be completed no later than October 16, 2026. This procurement complies with the Township's Procurement By-law. Carried.

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk advised that we spoke to Cox Construction Limited about giving a quote for the paved shoulders project, but we would have to suspend the procurement by-law in order to do this.

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright, that Council suspend its Procurement By-law for this project to seek a quote from Cox Construction, in order to achieve cost savings by eliminating the need for a formal tendering process. Carried.

Release of the 2026 Gravel Tender deposit to Flesherton Concrete Products Inc.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson, that Council approves the release of the tender security deposit cheque in the amount of \$50,345.00 received from Flesherton Concrete Products Inc. regarding the 2026 Gravel Tender. Carried.

Other

Councillor Neilson thanked the Public Works Department for all their hard work with the grass cutting.

Deputy Mayor McLean asked for an update on the paved shoulder, Staff advised that an update was provided above.

Councillor Plowright thanked the Public Works Department for watering the flowers in the Hamlets and Village.

Planning

Applications to Permit

Nothing for this matter.

Email from Sonya Zuber, Aggregates Specialist, MNR regarding Duivenvoorden Haulage Limited – ERO # 026-0536

Council discussed the process taken for the ARA public meeting and how they did not feel that it was acceptable. Staff were directed to respond to the email from Sonya Zuber and request a meeting with the Director of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Environmental Registry of Ontario – Duivenvoorden Haulage Limited ERO # 026-0536

Liam Morgan, Township Planner spoke to the comment letter he prepared for the Township and Liam asked if Council would like the process taken for public meeting being flawed being added to the letter, and Council would like it added.

Other

Township Commenting Letter – Duivenvoorden ERO# 026-0536 – CAO/Clerk

This matter was discussed above.

Official Plan Conformity Exercise Statutory Public Meeting Schedule - CAO/Clerk

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk advised that the consultants are ready to move the Official Plan to Public Meeting, as all comments have been addressed.

Councillor Plowright and Deputy Mayor McLean would like the water and aggregate policies strengthened. Staff will invite Debbie from Planscapes to a future council meeting to discuss this further with Council.

Dufferin County OPA 5 Letter - CAO/Clerk

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk advised Council that this was to advise of the public engagement of OPA 5 and advised that Staff will be promoting this for the County.

Strategic Plan

Nothing for this matter.

Climate Change Initiatives

Nothing for this matter.

Dufferin OPP Detachment Board – Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur

Councillor Plowright advised that she received an email from Al Blundell who asked about a Community Watch Group in Horning's Mills, Corbetton and Riverview. Staff were directed to invite Al to a Council meeting for more information on this matter.

County Council Update

County Council Highlight – June 16, 2026

Mayor White and Deputy Mayor McLean provided an update on County Council.

Committee of Adjustment

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that we adjourn Council at 6:05 p.m. to convene as Committee of Adjustment and reconvene as Council. Carried.

Committee/Board Reports & Recommendations

Nothing for this matter.

Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes

1. Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board – May 13th, 2026

2. Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex Board – March 25th, 2026
3. Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex Board – April 10th, 2026
4. Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex Board – April 22nd, 2026

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson, That Council receive the Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes Items 1-4 as information. Carried.

Items for Information Purposes

1. Ministry of Natural Resources – Finalized Updates to Certain Operational Policies under the Aggregate Resource Act
2. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority June 2026 Board Meeting Highlights
3. Township of Clearview – Notice of Decision with Respect to an Official Plan
4. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Amendment to a Regulation under the Planning Act to Support a New Framework for Developer-identified Parkland Dedication
5. Western Ontario Wardens Caucus – Resuming Ontario’s Property Assessment Cycle
6. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Regulatory Changes to the Clean Water Act to Accelerate and Improve Protection for Ontario’s Drinking Water Sources
7. Grand River Conservation Authority – Summary of the General Membership – June 26, 2026
8. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Minister’s direction under Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act with Respect to Budget and Apportionment Matters
9. Grand River Conservation Authority – Joint Statement on Guiding Principles for Conservation Authorities Amalgamation
10. Grand River Conservation Authority – 2027 Budget Process Timing Change

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright, that correspondence items 1-10, for information purposes, be received as information, except for item 9, pulled for further discussion. Carried.

Mayor White spoke to item 9.

Items for Council Action

David Thwaites Resignation from the Parks & Recreation Board and Heritage Committee

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that we accept, with regret the resignation of David Thwaites from the Parks & Recreation Board and Heritage Committee and thank him for his time and contributions to the Board and Committee. Carried.

General Business

Accounts

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that Council receive the General Accounts as presented. Carried.

Notice of Intent to Pass By-law

By-law to Amend By-law No. 57-2023 to appoint Tracey Simms to the Horning’s Mills Hall Board until November 14, 2026

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to appoint Tracey Simms to the Horning's Mills Hall Board until November 14, 2026 and it be hereby read a first and second time and numbered 31-2026. Carried.

New/Other Business/Additions

Fill the vacancy for the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex and Mulmur Melancthon Fire Department Boards of Management

Mayor White will be sitting on the Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex and Deputy Mayor McLean will be sitting on the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board.

Staff were directed to bring back an amending By-law to the next Council Meeting.

Shannon Catton, Senior Ecologist, North-South Environmental - Peer Review of the Strada Aggregates Integrated Monitoring Plan 2025 for Melancthon Pit # 2 and Bonnefield Property Pit

Council appreciated the thoughts and recommendations put forward by Shannon Catton. Deputy Mayor McLean would like to send this along to the MOE for the AMO delegation.

Reggae Fest 2026 – 159127 Highway 10

Councillor Neilson spoke to this matter as it was brought to his attention. Deputy Mayor McLean asked Staff to reach out to the Township of Southgate to see if they received an application and any additional information.

Reports/Updates from Members of Council & Administrative Staff

Councillor Neilson provided Council with an update on the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board Meeting.

Mayor White provided Council with an update on the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board Meeting, as he attended as Ex-Officio for quorum purposes.

Delegations

5:30 p.m. – Josh MacEwen – To speak to Council about data centres and large-load facilities and to request that Dufferin County coordinate a 2026 readiness/scoping review (refer to request for additional information)

Josh MacEwen spoke to Council about data centres and large-load facilities and to request that Dufferin County coordinate a 2026 readiness/scoping review.

Staff were directed to bring a Motion forward at the next meeting. Deputy Mayor McLean asked for the motion provided to be edited to add – review scope that County of Dufferin conduct a jurisdictional scan for best practices and lower-tier engagement.

5:40 p.m. – Jeff Holmes, Holmes Agro, to request that the frequency of Holmes Agro Groundwater Monitoring Program (for the facility located at 517641 County Road 124) be changed from annually to every two years

Travis Clarke, Operations Lead at Holmes Agro, presented to Council on behalf of Jeff Holmes. He spoke to the Groundwater Monitoring Program and asked that it be changed from annual testing to every two years. Council did not make a decision and will look into this further before making a decision. Staff were directed to ask our Hydrogeologist for his opinion.

Closed Session

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean, that Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 6:44 p.m. pursuant Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons (b) Personnel matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – Update on Township Personnel. Carried.

Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

Moved by White, Seconded by Plowright, that Council rise at 7:33 p.m. with Report. Carried.

The report being the directions given to Staff in Closed Session.

Third Reading of By-laws

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson, that By-law 31-2026 now be read a third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed and engrossed in the By-law Book. Carried.

Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion by Deputy Mayor McLean from Delegation from Josh MacEwen regarding data centres.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon at its Council meeting held July 16th, 2026 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 32-2026. Carried.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson, that Council adjourn this meeting at 7:34 p.m., to meet again on Thursday, September 3rd, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK