

Dear Council,

As current chairperson and a member of our Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) for over 15 years I have read that I am going to be sent a thank you letter on behalf of Council. That, of course, is after they dissolve all advisory committees, including CEDC in the new year.

With a stroke of the pen and no conversation we are gone.

As with many things change is always difficult. It is usually made worse by how it is implemented. In the case of advisory committee's demise I can't think of a more cringe worthy way of doing it. It is like reading in a company newsletter that you are going to be fired without knowing what was wrong with what you were doing.

As chairperson I have always limited my opinion on CEDC because my role is to facilitate rather than dominate. I have been approached by several community members about what is happening and they are very concerned. Our community has had limited methods to demonstrate their opinions. In the past the groans from the community could be heard in council chambers. A packed council chamber on a subject was always a method used to direct council in the community direction, with the pandemic this has been taken away. We are left to read a couple hundred pages and watch a few hour long video at home to be informed. Don't bother to read the council highlights to find out that Advisory Committees are being disbanded. That was somehow overlooked in the August 10th highlights.

Where is all of the openness that many of the new Councillors campaigned on? We used to feel like we were all working towards the same goal of making MM a better place. Now everyone's definitions of better are different. So it's complicated and exhausting and I don't think I've accomplished anything in a long time.

If the Municipality is trying to emulate something like inclusivity, for example, while maybe good intent, the people it affects (It's Stakeholders and electoral voters) might have a different opinion.

For whatever reason for the action of disbanding the committee of volunteers, by not discussing that proposal (decision in this case), the message received as a member of the Advisory Committees is "you don't value the committee or the people on it".

So today I am announcing my resignation, effective today. I will not wait until January 2020 to be disbanded, our ability to function as a committee with this council was already terrible, so to sit through another wasted meeting is not worth my time.

With a stroke of the pen and no conversation I am gone.

My sincerest apologies to the volunteers and stakeholders of Mississippi Mills on what our future holds.

Regards,  
Scott McLellan