

NOTLINE NEWS

A NEWS UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF *Niagara-On-The-Lake*

Issue # 188 – May 12, 2010

WARNER ROAD SIDEWALK

Following a deputation and petition from residents of the area in April 2010, Council directed staff to review the pros and cons regarding the location of a pedestrian sidewalk on Warner Road. Staff responded with their analysis and recommended a north side installation. However, subsequent to a second resident's deputation, the Public Works Advisory Committee approved to have the sidewalk located on the south side of the road.

VOTE BY MAIL

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to provide for a vote by mail process for the 2010 Municipal Election. The staff report advised many municipalities have moved away from poll-only voting and have moved to alternative methods in order to improve convenience for voting and to potentially increase voter turnout. Staff will be working to implement a sign-up process for the vote by mail option and recommended acquiring 1,000 Vote by Mail packages at a cost of \$2,550. The staff report also advised information sheets will be available regarding related election matters, including the voters' list, advance poll dates, polling locations, and proxy voting.

NEW CAO

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs announced Mr. Mike Galloway has been retained as the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Town effective June 7, 2010. Mr. Galloway is currently the Deputy CAO and Municipal Clerk for the Township of Essa, and was previously the Clerk/CAO with the Municipality of Pelee and an elected official with the City of Kitchener.

DOCK AREA PLAN – PUBLIC MEETING

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to schedule a public meeting to present the Dock Area Secondary Plan on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The staff report summarized the process for the preparation of the Plan, including the development of a Vision for the Old Town approved in July 2009, meetings with stakeholders in the area, and an all-day community workshop in October 2009.

The staff report also noted the Plan provides for urban design policies to complement the various character areas of the Dock Area; detailed land use policies; public access to the waterfront; improvements to streets and trails; cultural heritage policies; and natural heritage policies.

The staff report further advised the final draft of the Dock Area Plan will be made available for review on the Town's website at www.notl.org.

In a related matter, Committee directed staff to meet with representatives of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club to discuss and clarify the contents of the Plan with the Club.

CONSULTATION POLICY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

As a result of the province adopting the Green Energy and Green Economy Act in May 2009, the Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to adopt a policy to guide the Town in providing comments to proponents of large scale renewable energy projects. The Act relates to renewable energy projects, including wind energy turbines and bioenergy projects. The policy provides guidelines for the consultation process and information required to be provided to the Town and the public. The report also detailed when the Act requires a consultation process.

The staff report advised the previously adopted Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment designed to regulate renewable energy projects are now deemed unenforceable and are to be repealed.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – APRIL 26, 2010

The Lord Mayor opened the meeting and reviewed several recent events and meetings, including the Annual Rotary Dinner, Firefighters Appreciation Night, Niagara Region's garbage contract, a visit from the Polish Ambassador, and Mayfair at Fort George. The Lord Mayor also noted a proposed sample letter being made available on the Town's website for residents to send to MPP Kim Craitor regarding the high school. The letter is asking the Minister of Education to enact a stay of the closure and recommends a new right-sized facility. Council endorsed this letter later in the meeting.

The recommendations of the Committee of the Whole were adopted without change.

Under New Business, Council moved to have the Town's Irrigation Systems turned on prior to the May 15, 2010, start date, if required, as requested by the Chair of the Irrigation Committee.

Following a Closed Session meeting, Council approved the Minutes of Settlement regarding the Niagara River Coalition's OMB Appeal on the Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2010, with regular business starting at 7:00 p.m. This newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures, is available on the Town's website at www.notl.org. Further questions may also be directed to the Town Clerk's Department at 905-468-3266.

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs, Councillors: Jim Collard, Dennis Dick, Terry Flynn, Andrea Kaiser, Jack Lowrey, Martin Mazza, Art Viola, Gary Zalepa