

NOTL NEWS

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

Issue # 180 – November 18, 2009

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to continue to participate as a member of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC), and to designate funds in the Proposed 2010 Current Budget for Council's consideration to fund future accessibility initiatives.

Prior to endorsing the staff recommendation, the Committee received a presentation from Mr. Ron Hewitt, who summarized the JAAC's annual report and commended the Town for their accessibility initiatives. In a related matter, Committee endorsed an Accessible Customer Service Policy to guide the Town in accessible customer service matters.

ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to establish an Energy Conservation Committee, and recommended Councillors J. Lowrey, A. Kaiser, and G. Zalepa to serve on the Committee. Pursuant to a requirement for the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax revenues, the municipality is required to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan defined as a long term plan to realize certain defined objectives. The staff report noted many of the principles of the Plan can be demonstrated through the Official Plan review scheduled for 2010, and the Energy Conservation Committee is expected to bring forward an energy conservation plan for Town buildings, facilities, fleet, and equipment.

FIBRE OPTIC ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT

The Public Works Advisory Committee endorsed an encroachment agreement with the Niagara Regional Broadband Network to provide for the placement of an optic fibre cable on the Upper Canada Trail between East and West Line and King Street.

The purpose of the installation is to provide a backup cable for the NOTL hospital, and by association, the rest of NOTL currently subscribing to the service.

COMPREHENSIVE ZONING UPDATE

The Planning Advisory Committee received an update regarding appeals to the comprehensive zoning by-law which was passed in two stages, the July 2009 passage dealing mainly with the provisions related to urban areas, and the August 2009 passage related to the agricultural areas. There are essentially 6 appeals to the by-laws, which Committee discussed individually and, with staff input, determined a procedural course.

Regarding the agricultural areas and the appeals by the Province and the Region, Committee recommended discussions continue with a view to narrow the items of contention and attempt to resolve the issues.

For individual appeals, being 10 Front Street, 66-76 Picton Street, and the Town Dock lands, Committee recommended maintaining the Town's proposed zoning.

In the matter of the DSBN appeal regarding the Line 2 lands proposed for an elementary school, the Committee recommended for the proposed Residential Development (RD) Zone to remain.

Committee supported continued discussions with the Bed and Breakfast Association to resolve and/or narrow the issues of their appeal and report back.

Committee also directed the Town Solicitor to file a motion with the Ontario Municipal Board requesting the Board to approve the sections of the By-laws not under appeal in order for those sections to be implemented.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 2, 2009

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs opened the meeting and commented on several events in the Town, including the recent structure fire at 10 and 12 Queen Street and the efforts to rebuild; the actions of the District School Board of Niagara to close NDSS and their lack of concern for the community; the Ontario Economic Summit hosted at White Oaks; the receipt of infrastructure stimulus funds to enable the Warner Road project to move forward; and information on the upcoming visit of Prince Charles.

Ms. Joanne Hicks of the Friends of NDSS presented a cheque in the amount of \$2,500 to Mr. Paolo Miele and members of the NDSS Football Trojans in support of their efforts to re-establish the team. Mr. Miele expressed his appreciation to the Town for their support.

In review of the Corporate Services Advisory Committee minutes, Council endorsed a resolution to request Regional Councillor Dave Lepp to attend a meeting of Committee to discuss the disposition of funds relating to provincial re-imburement for uploading.

The balance of the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole was adopted without change.

Under New Business, Council discussed the results of the DSBN decision to close NDSS, and Councillors offered a number of possible scenarios to pursue in an effort to have the decision overturned. Council endorsed a motion directing the Senior Management Team to review the matter at their upcoming meeting, and to report back to Committee with a comprehensive strategy to challenge the Board's actions.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 23, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. This NOTL Newsletter, as well as information on meeting schedules and deputation procedures, is also available on the Town's website at www.notl.org. Further questions may also be directed to the 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