

NOTLINEWS

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

Issue # 182 – January 6, 2010

PURCHASING AMENDMENTS

The Corporate Services Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to amend the Town's Purchasing By-law to provide for the calling of 'Expressions of Interest' and to clarify the procedures for 'Requests for Proposals'. The staff report notes Expressions of Interest and Requests for Proposals are generally used to obtain goods or services, which are difficult to define as compared to a tender document which can detail specific standards. In response to Committee's questions, staff advised the procedure will not exclude any person or firm from offering to provide goods or services to the Town.

DISEASED FRUIT TREE BY-LAW

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff report recommending moving forward with a by-law to designate diseased fruit trees/vineyards as local weeds, thereby providing an opportunity for the Town to deal with abandoned and diseased orchards and vineyards. The report advised the issue was raised by the agricultural community as a result of increased incidences of disease and pests. The by-law will be enforced in a similar manner as other by-laws and contains minimum orchard/vineyard area and location criteria.

PARKING STANDARDS REVIEW

The Planning Advisory Committee endorsed a staff recommendation to prepare terms of reference to review and evaluate the appropriateness of the parking requirements for various commercial uses in the commercial area of the Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District.

The report summarized the applicable parking standards for different uses in the Heritage District and provided background on recent minor variance applications and the cash-in-lieu of parking policy. It also noted the function of the Queen-Picton District is different than any other commercial district in the community.

A recommendation to adopt an interim control by-law while the study is being undertaken was also endorsed. The staff report notes the by-law will restrict a change in commercial uses in the Heritage District when the parking requirement is greater than what can be accommodated on site. The interim control by-law can be in effect for a year and may be extended for another year.

MULTI-USE TRAIL MOVES FORWARD

The Public Works Advisory Committee supported a staff report recommending the Town finalize the construction plans and proceed with construction of the multi-use trail along Niagara Stone Road between Concession 4 Road and the Village of Virgil with the project to start in March 2010.

The staff report advised the issues with the design of the trail relating to adjoining properties have been resolved and trail costs are estimated to be \$250,000. Financing will come from Development Charges (\$97,500), Federal and Provincial Grants (\$100,000), and Road Reserves (\$52,500). Construction is subject to approval of the 5-Year Capital Budget.

COUNCIL SUMMARY – DECEMBER 14, 2009

Lord Mayor Burroughs opened the meeting and thanked the many volunteers who made the Candlelight Stroll and the annual Santa Claus Parade successful events.

Council received a presentation from a representative of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority related to aspects of watershed maintenance. Under New Business, Council directed staff to contact NPCA to obtain information on how residents are notified of watershed projects.

A Colonel John Butler School parent made a deputation to Council regarding the elementary school situation and requested Council to move forward with the location of the proposed new school. Under New Business, Council directed for a meeting to be arranged with DSBN regarding the proposed location of the new elementary school.

Following a deputation from a parent from St. Michael School regarding the possibility of a boundary adjustment resulting in some 50 separate school students relocating from St. Michael School in NOTL to a Niagara Falls school, Council endorsed a resolution supporting the concept that children living in NOTL should attend schools located in the community.

In review of the Public Works Advisory Committee recommendations, Council determined to defer the Prideaux Street reconstruction design pending reconsideration of lighting and utility design, and 2010 Budget discussions. The deferral decision was considered after input from two residents of Prideaux Street who indicated curb and gutter design rather than swales was the preferred design of the homeowners.

In review of the Planning Advisory Committee recommendations, Council determined to waive the fees associated with granting an encroachment agreement for the Kinsmen sign located on King Street at Mary Street.

The balance of the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 7, 2009, was adopted without change.

In review of the recommendations of the Municipal Heritage Committee, Council determined to defer a decision to move forward with the designation of Laura Secord Public School under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act pending a meeting with DSBN to ascertain their position on such a designation.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010, with regular business starting at 7:00 p.m. This 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**