

MINUTES: INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE



MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, January 26, 2010
MEETING TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Ravenna Hall
PREPARED BY: Krista Royal, Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order

Present: Duncan McKinlay, John McKean, Bob Gamble, John McGee, Reg Russwurm, John Caswell, Jim McCannell, Shawn Everitt, Ruth Prince, Krista Royal

Regrets: Jeff Fletcher

A.1 Approval of Agenda

Reg Russwurm informed Committee of additions/changes to the agenda:

With Additions:

1. Letter from Mill Café Restaurant/bridge work
2. West span of Beaver River Bridge
3. Consulting Fees

Deputy-Mayor Duncan McKinlay noted a date error to the agenda, being November 10, 2009 as the previous minutes which should be corrected to read January 12, 2010.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT the Agenda of the January 26, 2010, Infrastructure & Recreation Committee Meeting be adopted as amended.

“CARRIED”

A.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

A.3 Previous Minutes – January 12, 2010

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the minutes of the January 12, 2010 Infrastructure & Recreation Committee be adopted as circulated.

“CARRIED”

B. Deputations/Presentations

B.1 EPW.10.012 Roads Needs Study Presentation 2009-2013

Jim McCannell advised that the study is near completion. Jim noted that there are several components of the report to be reviewed by Committee in particular the speed limits throughout the Town and significant low volume roads.

Jim introduced Ron Kerr from RJ Burnside & Associates to the Committee. Ron presented highlights in regards to the draft 2009-2013 Roads Needs Study for Committee's review/input.

Committee discussed/reviewed the details of the Roads Needs Study presented as well as reviewed the large printed hard copies that were circulated of various maps outlining speed limits and low volume roads within the Town.

Committee concerns/suggestions:

- OPP awareness of the variation of speed limits throughout the Town boundaries
- concerned the speed limits not being consistent and not properly signed (maps will need to be revised)
- want a Public Information Centre to allow input from the residents before a By-Law is adopted
- low volume roads to be defined (ie heritage, seasonal, cottage lane/roads)
- double check all seasonal roads outlined on the maps
- load restrictions on low volume roads
- clarification of the class of our roads within our 50 year Plan
- establish criteria to defend the sieve to qualify low volume roads
- would like two scheduled road tours setup to allow Committee to have a better understanding of the topography of the roads

Reg Russwurm advised the Committee that he has spoken with Charlie Watts of the OPP detachment in regards to the speed limit issues.

Ron summarized to the Committee of a number of concerns/factors to be considered:

- the Town's Official Plan (OP) is under review therefore consideration for the Roads Needs Study as part of the OP
- review with Planning Department Staff the seasonal roads outlined in the study to ensure no development would be considered with lots fronting on seasonal roads
- discuss with Planner/Legal Counsel to determine if the issues should be part of the OP or by By-Law, more flexibility by way of By-Law
- define the level of service for designated roads
- establish a Town policy regarding the requirements for issuance of a building permit on properties fronting on "seasonal roads or low volume roads".

Ron further noted that the complete Roads Needs Study has been submitted to Jim and Staff are reviewing document.

Reg advised that the Consultants have heard the Committee's concerns and the maps will be modified, a report will be submitted back to Committee at another session, create a sieve to designate roads within the study (seasonal, cottage road, heritage road for urban and rural), as well as look at the criteria for the OP to include collector roads.

Duncan suggested that Rob Potter could be of assistance to help Reg and Jim with names of the roads.

Committee thanked Ron for his presentation and work involved in preparing the study.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: John McGee

THAT Council receives Report EPW.10.012 entitled "Road Needs Study Presentation 2009-2013" for their information.

"CARRIED"

Reg suggested to the Committee to discuss Staff Report C.1 prior to the second presentation. Committee concurred to review Agenda item C.1.

C.1 FIS.10.05 Unconnected Vacant Lots Fronting Municipal Water & Wastewater Services

Ruth Prince briefed the Committee on the background of the Staff Report. Ruth noted that the next step will require all lots subject to vacant lot charge to be identified and must be completed in 2010 to prepare this fee for inclusion in the 2011 budget.

Councillor Bob Gamble stated that this would definitely be a touchy subject and what would be the process to communicate to the residents. Ruth advised that once the lots are identified a direct mailing will be sent out to the property owners. Ruth noted that a one page flyer will be sent to invite them to a Public Information Centre. Reg commented that most of the vacant lots are not residents that reside within The Blue Mountains area.

Duncan questioned as to how many lots will be affected. Ruth advised that approximately 1300 vacant lots for water and 900 vacant lots for wastewater.

Bob questioned when the vacant lot charge would begin. Reg noted that assumption of a development is a good point to start a charge but yet to be confirmed.

Committee requested the motion to be modified to reference a policy to be developed which will allow for public input. Ruth noted that she will provide a draft policy and report back to be reviewed by the Committee.

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIS.10.05 "Unconnected Vacant Lots Fronting Municipal Water and Wastewater Services" for information purposes; and,

THAT Council direct Staff to develop a policy and communication strategies to levy a fee for unconnected lots fronting Municipal Water and Wastewater Services.

"CARRIED"

Committee took a five minute recess before addressing the second presentation.

B.2 EPW.10.013 Access to the Community of Slabtown Class EA – January 30, 2010 PIC

Michael Cullip from C. C. Tatham & Associates presented to the Committee the Slabtown Access Public Information Centre presentation slides. Michael briefed the Committee on the details of the presentation.

Reg questioned if the Committee had any concerns/suggestions on the weighted scoring evaluation.

Committee concerns/suggestions:

- any weighting factor being considered for agricultural use of bridge
- agricultural land impact and the difference in distance between option "F" and "J"
- option "C" being a preference by the Slabtown residents with a cost factor higher than the other options being presented, possibility to have the residents incur the cost difference
- concerned the general taxpayers having to pay for the cost difference
- notification submitted to the Métis Nation of the Slabtown EA for input
- consider weighting criteria that no one gets land locked
- snow maintenance costs and the ability to turn a snowplow around on the west side of the bridge
- access for emergency vehicles to residents on the west side of the bridge
- any concerns received from the residents

Michael advised to the Committee that the agricultural factor was considered under the vegetation impact. Michael further advised that option F has a distance of 1500m and option J has a distance of 900m. Reg advised that the one concern that was raised by the residents was that they do not want more development to occur. Jim noted that currently the cost to maintain snow removal is \$5,000/yr. Jim further noted that the road is currently not being plowed by the Town. It is done through a Contractor who blows the snow.

Committee concurred to revise the chart requesting the weighting factors to be changed to reflect a higher weight on cost within the presentation submitted to around 2/3.

Committee continued with the agenda to allow Michael to change the chart to reflect an increased cost weighting factor.

C. Staff Reports as circulated

C.2 DOR.10.08 Partnership with Reid Homes and The Blue Mountains

Shawn Everitt briefed the Committee that the purpose of the partnership with Reid Homes is to allow their private pool facility to be rented for public use in blocks of time that would be affordable and beneficial to the residents. Shawn stated that it will allow two facilities to be utilized by the community with the Plunge at one end of the Town and the Reid's facility at the other end.

Bob questioned if the programming would require Town Staff to be involved. Shawn noted that his goal is to help facilitate the service being available to the community, but that the responsibility for programming is the program supplier.

Duncan commented to the good work being accomplished by Shawn in developing activities with private facilities that can be utilized by our community.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT Council approve Staff Report DOR 10 08 "Partnership with Reid Homes and The Blue Mountains" and directs Staff to continue Partnership discussions.

"CARRIED"

C.3 EPW.10.008 Water Powered Sump Pumps By-law Amendment to Address Their Use

John Caswell suggested that if the municipality does permit the use of Water Powered Sump Pumps along with an approved backflow preventer installed, this will assist the homeowners from flooding during an electrical power outage. John noted that a yearly inspection should be completed on the double acting check valve to ensure the water distribution system is protected.

Duncan questioned what the process would be for the home owners and who would be responsible for the inspection. John advised that the initial step would involve the home owner applying to the Building Department for a permit application, which will be inspected by their department.

The yearly inspection following the installation will require Brian O'Reilly of the Water Department to verify the annual inspection is completed by receiving a copy of an invoice from the owner that proves the inspection was completed by a certified plumber.

Councillor John McGee was concerned that the pumps installed were used as a primary operations source which does not comply with the Town's conservation methods.

Reg advised that the By-Law amendment would state that the use of the pumps will be only used as a secondary source.

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receives Staff Report EPW.10.008 entitled "Water Powered Sump Pumps By-law Amendment to Address Their Use",

AND THAT Council direct Staff to amend existing By-law 2008-02 regarding the use of water driven sump pumps to permit their installation subject to the protection of the water distribution system by an approved back flow prevention device.

"CARRIED"

C.4 EPW.10.009 Fire Hydrant Installation on Hidden Lake Road and James Street

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receives Staff Report EPW.10.009 entitled "Fire Hydrant Installation on Hidden Lake Road and James Street",

AND THAT Council approves creation of 2010 Capital Project Budget for the installation of six (6) fire hydrants, an automatic flushing station and related works in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the Water Reserve Fund.

"CARRIED"

C.5 EPW.10.010 Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 1A Expansion & Related Capital Plan

John McGee questioned as to what funding source will cover the expansion. Reg advised that the budget from Development Charges will cover most of the expansion cost and over time the Developer's will fund the balance.

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.10.010- "Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 1A Expansion and Related Capital Plan", and

THAT Council commits to commence the expansion of the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant once the inflow rate has reached 80% of the operating treatment capacity, and

THAT Council confirms that a funding plan for the expansion of the Thornbury Wastewater Treatment Plant is in place with same being based upon the related 2010 Budget Capital Project Sheet.

"CARRIED"

D. Information Reports/Correspondence

D.1 DOR.10.03 2009 BVCC Capital Project Update

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT Council accept Staff Report DOR 10 03 "2009 BVCC Capital Project Update" for information purposes.

"CARRIED"

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Kolapore Uplands Parking Lot

Letter from Jennie Elmslie, Free Spirit Tours

Shawn advised the Committee that originally the snow removal for the Metcalfe Rock parking lot was put in the budget, but it didn't make the preliminary cuts. Shawn noted that the original Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) only permitted summer use of the land, therefore revisions to the memorandum must be submitted to MNR to permit plowing of the parking lot.

Councillor John McKean advised Shawn to provide response correspondence to Free Spirit Tours. Shawn noted that he will notify them verbally and by way of correspondence. Shawn further noted that he would like to address an overall Parks and Trails parking lot maintenance strategy.

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Committee wishes for Shawn Everitt to explore revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources for the winter use and maintenance of the Metcalfe Rock Parking Lot and possible cost sharing opportunities, and

THAT Committee also directs Staff to develop an overall Parks and Trails parking lot maintenance strategy for seasonal and year round use and maintenance of parking lots in the Towns Parks and Trails inventory.

"CARRIED"

E.2 Mill Street Café

Reg advised to the Committee that he has a draft response letter that has been circulated as an addition to the agenda and for the Committee to review and provide changes before submitting the letter to the owners of the Mill Street restaurant. Reg reviewed his response letter with the Committee.

Committee was concerned with dust control, cost premium to the project in restricting jack-hammering for a specific time, noise attenuation, and the possible extra cost not covered by Ministry of Transportation. Committee requested Reg to make revisions to the letter addressing their concerns and to deliver the letter in person.

Reg noted that due to the latest of the hour, a resolution is required to extend the meeting time for Committee to beyond 11:00 p.m.

Moved by John McGee Seconded by John McKean

THAT the Committee concurred to waive the 11:00 curfew to continue addressing the remainder agenda items.

“CARRIED”

E.3 West Span of Beaver River Bridge

Reg advised the Committee that the Structural Engineer inspection of the bridge requires that it is critical to have the west span work of the bridge done this year even if we don't get MTO funding. Reg further advised that Town has received \$720,000 of MTO funding that will be utilized to address the immediate problem and the Town will apply for additional funding to continue with finishing the top of the bridge.

John McGee questioned when the work can be done. Reg advised that date deadline is after May, but will push out the work later into the season. John McKean questioned if the Structural Engineer condemned the bridge. Reg stated that the bridge was not condemned but the bridge is in rough shape.

E.4 Consultant Fees

Reg notified the Committee that he is in the process of fee negotiation with RJ Burnside for the Plan 915 project and Genivar for the Thornbury Water Treatment project.

Town has received a request of an increase in Consultant fees for both projects. Reg noted that he will need to determine if the fee increase is within reasonable terms of their contract or if the extra work completed was at the request from the Town. Reg further noted that a Staff report will be provided to the Committee to defend any fee increase.

B.2 Continued

The details of slides outlining different alternate options to access the Community of Slabtown was reviewed at length by Committee throughout the evening. In conclusion, Committee requested that the PIC slides be presented as revised to the public at the January 30, 2010 PIC.

Committee thanked Michael for his presentation and his patience to make the required changes proposed in order to meet the deadline for Saturday's PIC.

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receives Report EPW.10.013 entitled "Access to the Community of Slabtown Class EA – January 30, 2010 Public Information Centre" for their information.
"CARRIED"

F. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., Ravenna Hall

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the Infrastructure & Recreation Committee Meeting of January 26, 2010 is adjourned at 11:25 p.m.
"CARRIED"