



Wasaga Beach Council Highlights

From the Dec. 18, 2018 meeting

Petition presented for extension of water and sewer

Manuel Antunes, a local resident, presented a petition to members of council on behalf of Joanne Crescent property owners.

The petition requests the extension of water and sewer services to the street, which runs south of Ramblewood Drive.

Council received the petition for information.

Town council approves new rates and fees for 2019

Council approved a 2 percent increase to water and wastewater base and consumption rates, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

The town conducts the study annually to determine if an adjustment to fees is required.

The study ensures there is sufficient revenue to sustain the water and wastewater system, now and in the future.

The study determined that fees should increase by 2%.

The town generates no profit from the revenue received. Funds support operation of the water and wastewater systems, or are held in reserve for future capital projects related to the systems – as mandated by the province’s Safe Drinking Water Act.

To see the rates, click here: <http://bit.ly/2SJQyR5>

To watch a presentation about the water and wastewater study – it starts around the 1:07 mark – see here: <http://bit.ly/2QJsb91>

Members of council also authorized a number of changes to rates and fees for 2019.

The changes to the town’s fee structure for different municipal services contains some new fees, as well as changes to existing fees.

The town reviews its fees annually and makes adjustments, if warranted, subject to

council approval, to assist with the cost of service delivery.

To see a summary of the changes, see here: <http://bit.ly/2Eu1FdM>

To watch a presentation about the changes – it starts around the 8:57 mark – see here: <http://bit.ly/2QJsb91>

Snowman Mania set for February 2019

Snowman Mania will take place Feb. 15-18, 2019.

Council approved the event and allocated a \$44,000 budget in support of the various activities being held during the event.

In a staff report, senior special events coordinator Angela Webster said the festival will take place at various locations throughout town.

She noted activities include musical entertainment, games, a lumberjack show, ice carving, a chilli cook-off, ball hockey, and much more.

A number of organizations are working with the town to make the carnival possible. Partners include the Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce, Wasaga Beach Lions Club, Nancy Island Lions Club, and the YMCA. Council recognizes and thanks them for their support.

New Year's Levee returns

A Wasaga Beach tradition is returning in 2019.

Council approved reinstating the New Year's Levee.

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the RecPlex on Jan. 13.

“Staff are of the view that a New Year's Levee event would be a nice opportunity for members of council to welcome and provide holiday greetings to local residents and business owners,” senior special events coordinator Angela Webster wrote in a staff report.

The budget for the event is \$4,500.

The levee will be a meet-and-greet reception hosted by Mayor Bifulchi and members of Council. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Primacare proposing new long-term care facility in Wasaga Beach

Primacare Living Solutions Inc., wants to create a new long-term care residence as part of a seniors' campus that includes a health hub with adult day services.

Councillor Stan Wells, chair of the General Government section of Coordinated Committee, advised council of a presentation by Primacare to committee on Dec. 13.

He noted the company would like a letter of support for its application to the province.

Council approved sending such a letter.

Primacare wants to build a 160-bed long-term care home that offers an array of programs and services.

The company has not yet settled on a location in town.

Letter of Intent lapses with FRAM Building Group Ltd.

Council approved letting the Letter of Intent lapse with FRAM Building Group Ltd.

Town council has decided to undertake a review of the development of town-owned lands in the downtown and at the beachfront.

Letting the Letter of Intent lapse December 31, 2018 is the first step in the review process.

Council has requested Mayor Nina Bifulchi and appropriate staff to reach out to FRAM Building Group Ltd., to determine the company's interest in working with the town and other prospective developers in the future development of town-owned lands on Main Street and at the beachfront.

"Developing these properties is something council takes seriously and we must ensure we get this right," Mayor Bifulchi said in a statement. "We have a new council with new ideas and it's our hope that we can find the right development partners to work with council in creating developments that are acceptable to our community."

Mayor Bifulchi added she has reached out to Mr. Frank Giannone, president of FRAM, and that they had a positive conversation.

"We look forward to continued dialogue in the new year," she said.

Environmental assessment deferred for now

Council deferred awarding a \$157,000 environmental assessment to C.C. Tatham and Associates.

The environmental assessment (EA) is related to the downtown revitalization and Main Street reconstruction projects.

The awarding of the EA will be deferred until the February meeting of council's Coordinated Committee to allow council and staff more time to review the direction of the projects.

Current electoral system will remain in place

Council confirmed the continued use of the at-large electoral system.

Council has decided not to consider switching to a ward system during this term of Council.

The decision was based on a question asked on the ballot during the recent municipal election. The question asked voters if the town should move to a ward system.

A total of 8,432 electors, or 38.5 percent of eligible electors, voted on the question. The

question garnered 4,934 “no” votes and 3,498 “yes” votes.

Town decides not to opt in to allow cannabis retail locations for now

Council received a report on the Province of Ontario’s cannabis retail legislation.

Council also agreed not to opt in to allow retail cannabis locations in town at this time.

Meanwhile, council requested staff to perform further analysis of the community impacts of allowing retail cannabis operations in Wasaga Beach.

Staff will report their findings to council no later than December 2019.

Council would like to have a better sense about the ramifications of retail cannabis operations before it considers allowing them in Wasaga Beach.

The town will advise the Registrar of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Council’s decision.

Open house on planned sidewalk project well received

Council received a report from Kevin Lalonde, director of public works, about a recent open house held in regards to a plan to install sidewalks in the 58th Street area.

The plan is to build sidewalks along 58th Street South, Ramblewood Drive, and Dennis Drive.

The town held the open house at the RecPlex on Sept. 27.

“Overall the preferred design was well received at the public open house meeting and the majority of the residents within the study area are in favour of the proposed sidewalks, increasing the safety for residents, children, and students of St. Noel Elementary School,” Lalonde said in a staff report.

The current draft of the 2019 budget includes the project.

The total construction cost, including utility relocations, is \$559,000. This includes \$509,000 for the majority of works – part of the draft 2019 budget – plus \$50,000 for the remainder of the sidewalk to be installed along Ramblewood Drive through the business park area later through a developer capital contribution.

November ridership numbers up for Wasaga Beach Transit

Town council received the November statistics for Wasaga Beach Transit and they show an increase in the service over October.

For November, 7,669 rides were taken on the local transit service, compared to 7,107 in October.

The November numbers are up by 751 rides compared to the same month in 2017.

For more on Wasaga Beach Transit, visit <https://www.wasagabeach.com/transit>.

-Wasaga Beach Council Highlights is produced monthly by the town's Communications Department.

-For the official record of council's meeting, please see the minutes at www.wasagabeach.com.

-You can watch the meeting here: <https://www.rogerstv.com/show?lid=12&rid=72&sid=5800>

-Follow the Town of Wasaga Beach on Facebook and Twitter.