



RIVER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Held Thursday, November 26, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Classroom, Town Hall

PRESENT:

Jason Ruttan
Dave Arsenault
Chuck Dali
David Wilde
Mike Lewis

Ron Anderson Councillor
Kevin Lalonde Director of Public Works
Doug Vincent Senior Municipal Law Enforcement Officer

ABSENT:

Bob Wills
Edward Holley

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Ruttan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Committee declared no Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

K. Lalonde noted that, with future Agenda's, the previous meeting Minutes will be appended. Committee had no comments.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Co-ordination of a Depth Sounding/River Cruise with Committee Members – RR-August 12, 2015.

J. Ruttan expressed appreciation and commented on the statistics being maintained by the Public Works Department during barge maintenance operations, including depth soundings, river marker surveys, etc... It was suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of including the wind direction with future data.

K. Lalonde indicated that tools are available to track weather statistics and noted that staff would take this into consideration in 2016. It was noted that staff typically refer to the following link as it relates to wind speed/gusts, direction, etc. (http://www.windfinder.com/report/wasaga_beach).

K. Lalonde noted that Committee was unable to convene for the River Cruise this past fall; however, the Committee Depth Sounding and/River Cruise will resume next Spring and Fall; consistent with past practice. Timing to be confirmed in the Spring at the call of the Chair.

D. Wilde noted that a boat will be made available when scheduling has been confirmed.

b) Status Report from O.P.P - RR-August 12, 2015.

K. Lalonde noted that the OPP could be included with the circulation list with future meetings. J. Ruttan advised that, subsequent to discussions with A. Barchum (OPP Marine Unit Representative), it was noted that A. Barchum would appreciate attending these meetings.

As such, A. Barchum will be circulated with future Agendas for his interest and subsequent attendance, if available. Committee agreed.

c) 2nd Street Boat Launch Improvements status re. funding application - RR-August 12, 2015.

K. Lalonde noted that the funding application submitted by the Parks & Facilities Department was specific to the boat launch at the Sports Park on Klondike Park Road; however, unfortunately application was not successful.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Update re. Nottawasaga River Shoreline Protection Strategy – Partnership with NVCA re. Riverbank Stabilization at Access Road

K. Lalonde provided a brief overview and update regarding the partnership with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and the status of construction specific to the slope stabilization and shoreline protection project at Access Road.

K. Lalonde indicated that the works are slated to begin in December.

b) Nottawasaga River / Watercourse Protection By-law

D. Vincent provided an overview of the recently adopted Watercourse Protection By-law. Copies of the By-law were circulated to Committee members for future reference.

Discussions ensued regarding jurisdiction matters, property standards, and enforcement. It was noted by Committee that this subject By-law should be communicated to the public to increase awareness.

D. Vincent noted that a notice in the paper could be prepared for next spring and/or fall; however, coordination will be required with the Town's Communications Officer. J. Ruttan thanked staff; and particularly D. Vincent with his efforts on this initiative.

c) Development of a NEW River Safety Brochure

J. Ruttan discussed river safety and suggested that consideration be given to bringing back and updating the '*Smart and Safe Boating on the Nottawasaga River*' Brochure, which was prepared and issued by the River Resources Committee many years ago.

Discussion ensued with regards to the contents of the information brochure, including emergency contact information, boat launch information, aids to navigation, river speed and boating guidelines. Councillor Anderson recommended that the brochure, prior to finalization, be circulated to the Town's solicitor for review and comment.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**a) Creation of Sub-Committees**

J. Ruttan suggested that a task force or possible sub-committee be developed with the focus of addressing goals and priorities of the River Resources Committee in between the formal meetings. Discussion ensued.

Some suggestions and priorities for the sub-committee was as follows:

- Updating the Smart and Safe Boating Brochure
- Environmental Task Force
- Community Engagement, Social Media, Public Interaction

Councillor Anderson noted that any communications will require internal review; particularly with the Town's Communication Officer.

b) River Alignment / Historical Imagery

J. Ruttan shared a series of photos of the river mouth that were shared by a resident of the community. Considerable discussion ensued with respect to the dynamic nature of the river mouth, historical changes of the mouth's location, channel alignment and current beach front properties that may ultimately become river front properties over time.

Discussion ensued with respect to the river depths and channel alignment; particularly at the mouth, this past season. K. Lalonde noted and encouraged members of the Committee to share any comments and/or concerns of the river alignment and depths at any time. Ultimately, it is the River Resources Committee that provides advice to Council on safety, environmental or economic matters with respect to the river within the Town.

M. Lewis shared an image of a conceptual layout of a marina in Port Stanley.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be the Call of the Chair.

9. ADJOURNMENT

J. Ruttan adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.