



RIVER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT

Held Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
In the Building Boardroom-2nd Floor, Town Hall

PRESENT:

Jason Ruttan
Chuck Dali
David Wilde
David Arsenault
Edward Holley

K. Lalonde Director of Public Works

ABSENT:

Robert Wills
Mike Lewis

1. CALL TO ORDER

J. Ruttan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Committee declared no Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

J. Ruttan asked Committee if they had any questions regarding the May 5, 2016 River Resources Committee report. Committee had no comments.

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

J. Ruttan noted that there were no depositions or presentations, but indicated that he received correspondence from Andrew Barcham, O.P.P., indicating that he may have permission to leave the OPP boat in the water this summer; pending funding. Discussion ensued with respect to the proposed boat slip and docking facility to be utilized.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Review of the River Resources Advisory Committees depth soundings from spring 2016. Water depths as recorded within the primary boating section of the Nottawasaga River.**

J. Ruttan provided an update regarding the recent depth soundings undertaken by Committee from last week, including comparison with previous years. J. Ruttan prepared a map depicting

the general location for the soundings and circulated a copy to committee members for information.

Discussion ensued with respect to historic river levels, including depths and widths of the channel. J. Ruttan also presented a river (bottom) profile comparison between 2014 and 2016.

b) Kevin Lalonde, Director of Public Works, to provide update on the municipal installation of the Nottawasaga River marine navigational buoys.

K. Lalonde provided an update with respect to the river maintenance operations, including placement of the navigational buoys, signage and deadfall/debris removal. K. Lalonde thanked both J. Ruttan and E. Holley for their assistance with pre-marking the river mouth alignment in advance of the marker placement. K. Lalonde noted that this was a very efficient and effective way to mark the mouth with greater accuracy.

K. Lalonde noted that barge operations will continue over the next couple of weeks, including debris and deadfall removal, as well as sign installation at the various right-of-ways along the river between Schoonertown Bridge and the mouth.

K. Lalonde noted that committee is encouraged to contact him should there be any issues, concerns or comments with respect to river maintenance and/or marker alignment.

Finally, K. Lalonde provided an update with respect to the status of the Nottawasaga River Class Environmental Assessment and pending filing of the draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the mandatory 30 day public comment.

c) Review final draft of ‘Smart and Safe Boating on the Nottawasaga River’ Brochure – RR-November 26, 2015. (If resolution is completed by River Resources Advisory Committee, brochure will be provided to municipality for municipal approval).

J. Ruttan shared copies of the updated draft ‘Smart & Safe Boating’ brochure. Committee reviewed and accepted all recent changes. K. Lalonde will circulate this draft document to the Town’s solicitor for legal review and comment in advance of circulation.

Discussion ensued with respect to where the brochure will be made available. Committee would like to see this brochure finalized and circulated in advance of the peak summer boating season.

d) Potential creation of sub-committees for members of the River Resources Advisory Committee. Sub-committees will include voluntary positions to research and report for further discussion on items pertaining to safety, preservation and improvement of the Nottawasaga River.

J. Ruttan provided further clarification with respect to the proposed sub-committee structure for members of the River Resources Advisory Committee. It was recommended that the River Resources Committee expand their focus and consider voluntary positions to research and report for further discussion on items pertaining to safety, preservation and improvement of the Nottawasaga River. He noted that the idea is to report to committee from each task force in

regards to issues involving the river by continuing our education and staying current on related items of interest.

J. Ruttan shared a couple of ideas for sub-committee for future consideration, including the following:

- Environment & NVCA (fish habitat, water species, water depths, sand dunes, regulations, etc.)
- Public Relations & By-law Enforcement (break walls, docks, watercourse protection by-law, education seminars, river clean-up day, etc.)
- Transport Canada & OPP (Safe & Smart Boating Guide, Navigation, Markers & Buoys, Maritime Laws and Provincial Law Enforcement – locally, etc...)
- Sports, Recreation & History (towed water sports, fishing, canoeing/kayaking/SUP, swimming, water related tourism/business operators, historic information and communication with Wasaga Beach Archives, etc...)

A discussion ensued with respect to historical archives, as well as the records from previous River Resources Committee over the years. D. Wilde indicated that he has considerable history with respect to the river and the previous committees and related issues. It was agreed that these should be shared and/or scanned for municipal record.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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 8:00 p.m.