



Council Meeting Highlights

March 20, 2018

Public Meetings

Ryan and Sarah Orr, Minor Variance Application, 257 Orchard Ave, Lakeside

The applicants are seeking relief to reduce the interior side yard width from 1.5 m (4.9 ft.) on the narrow side to 0.0 m. According to the applicants, the existing side entrance porch was constructed in 1997 and they were not aware of the encroachment when they purchased the property in 2016. The porch has since been modified to no longer encroach on the neighbouring lands; however, the porch is within 0 m of the property boundary and the applicant has requested a variance to permit an existing entrance porch to remain. Council, sitting as Committee of Adjustment, approved the application.

Staff Reports

Sewage System Management Agreement

Oxford County Public Health has been providing septic system approvals for Zorra Township since 1998 when the Ministry of Environment delegated that responsibility. The Building Department carried out a review to determine whether the Township should take back this function and, in the end, it was felt that Oxford County Public Health was better suited to carry out this service.

Emergency Services Communications Network

In 2012, the five Townships within Oxford County entered into an agreement to provide for a shared Emergency Communications Network to provide service to their respective Fire Departments. Through 2013 and 2014 the Townships jointly issued an RFP and approved the design and installation of a new communications system infrastructure, which is now in operation.

The existing agreement provides for the shared services of the communications network, including the equipment, maintenance, and licencing requirements. The Township of Norwich will administer the system, and all costs are shared equally.

Senior and Volunteer of Year Awards

The Senior of the Year award is currently awarded through the Ontario Government's "Ontario Senior Achievement Award." The nominee must have contributed to the community after the age of 65 and has made their community a better place to live. Seniors who qualify for this award may have contributed to many different fields such as the arts, literature, community service, volunteering, education, environment, fitness, and humanitarian activities. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 30 and the name and age of nominee and a brief biography is all that is required for submission. The Volunteer of the Year award came out of the Township's Strategic Plan as an action item for 2018. It is proposed a Volunteer of the Year be chosen annually during National Volunteer Week (April 15-21, 2018). Nominations for both awards will be advertised on social media and on the website and will ask residents to recommend individuals who they feel should be recognized. Nominations will be presented to Council in April.



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Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Workplace Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program (WEVCIP) was announced in early 2018 and will support employers that wish to provide Level 2 electric vehicle chargers for their employees or workplace tenants by providing 80 per cent of the initial cost, up to \$7,500 per charging space, subject to meeting eligibility and technical requirements. The Township submitted an application for two charging units at the Municipal Office as this facility was the only one that met the criteria of having 10 employees at a work site location. The Township was advised the application was approved for the installation of two charging stations at the Municipal Office. Council approved the installation of two charging stations at the Township Office. There will not be a charge for use of the station, however, this will be reviewed after two years to determine whether a fee should be charged.

Election Sign By-law

Council approved Township staff to prepare an Election Sign By-law. The Municipal Elections Modernization Act introduced legislative requirements relating to election signage, which is in effect for the 2018 municipal election. The new by-law will provide clarity to where election signs can be posted, allow signs to be erected 45 days prior to voting day, restrict election signs on public property and require a deposit to erect signs. The draft Election Sign By-law will be posted for public review in the near future.

OPAL Resolution

Oxford People Against the Landfill (OPAL) circulated a resolution late in 2017 calling for the Province to approval landfill projects in or adjacent to their municipalities. The Township Council sought a legal opinion whether such a resolution could be supported due to Zorra already having zoning approval authority for the Southwestern Landfill proposal. Based on legal advice, Council did pass a resolution calling for the Government of Ontario to commence a legislative review of the Province's landfill approval process in order to assess the potential establishment of a municipal consent requirement prior to the approval of any new landfill in Ontario.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is to be held on April 3, 2018, at 9:30 am in the Council Chambers.