

This meeting of Council was held at AJ Baker Elementary School to help commemorate Local Government Week.

Delegations

Students from the Grade 4/5 and 5/6 classes presented a request to Council to provide assistance with allowing the students to participate in Water Walkers. The Water Walkers awareness group was started in the effort to raise awareness and consciousness about pollution, laws and any issues that impact water, and for the Spirit of the Water, Nohkomis Josephine Mandamin has walked the shorelines of all five Great Lakes ... she has literally walked more than 20,000 kilometres for the water — equal to nearly half the earth's circumference. The students had a well prepared presentation and were able to answer questions from Council.

Detachment Commander Tony Hymers presented first and second quarter reports on OPP activity in Zorra Township. Also, the 2019 OPP estimated costing proposal was submitted and will see a \$10,000 increase over the 2018 estimate.

Public Meetings

Ron and Heather Forbes, 642960 Road 64, Application for Zone Change

The purpose of the Zone Change application is to permit a second residential dwelling as a temporary use for a period of up to three years. A previous temporary use by-law was approved by Township Council on July 14, 2015 (By-law No. 39-15) and permitted a second accessory dwelling on the property for three years (until July 14, 2018) and the applicant has applied to extend the time period for this permission.

The subject lands comprise approximately 30.5 ha (75 ac) and contain two single detached dwellings, agricultural lands in crop production, two vacant livestock barns and associated farm structures. In 2015, an existing kennel building, with a gross floor area of 160 m² (1,728 ft²), was converted to provide housing to the farm owner while their son and family reside in the principal farm dwelling. The conversion of the kennel was subject to a Building Permit and has been inspected for occupancy under the Building Code.

The subject lands are on the southwest corner of Road 64 and 17th Line (Oxford Road 45) and have direct access to Road 64. Surrounding land uses are predominately agricultural, with an aggregate extraction operation to the north.

Correspondence and Staff Reports

Thames Springs Subdivision - Phase 5

The County of Oxford has received an application requesting an amendment (“red line revisions”) to an approved draft plan of subdivision, known as Thames Springs Phase 5 (File No. SB 12-07-5). The draft plan of subdivision received approval from Oxford County Council on June 12, 2013. The overall plan includes 112 lots for single detached residential purposes and 3 residential blocks for a mix of single detached, semi-detached, and street fronting townhouses, all served by the extension of Boyd Boulevard and 5 new local streets, as described in Planning Report No. 2013-126. The application was reviewed at public meetings held by the Township of Zorra on April 16, 2013 and the County of Oxford on May 22, 2013.

Three phases of the Draft Plan of Subdivision have been registered as follows: Phase 5A (Plan 41M-303); Phase 5B (Plan 41M-234); and, Phase 5C (Plan 41M-331). The draft plan approval was extended in June 2018 and the current lapsing date is June 12, 2020. The remaining lands are known as Phase 5D and comprise 33 lots for single detached dwellings and two blocks for single detached dwellings or street fronting townhouses (17 units).

The applicant is requesting an amendment to the two blocks (Blocks 123 and 124) identified in the original draft plan for single detached or street fronting townhouses (17 units) to create 13 blocks for semi-detached dwellings (26 units). Each semi-detached unit is proposed to be located on its own lot and the applicant intends to apply for exemption from part lot control to divide the blocks as the units are constructed. Council passed a resolution in support of the application to Oxford County Council.

Zorra Water and Wheels Committee

Zorra Water and Wheels Committee submitted a request to Council to have staff investigate installation of a barrier between the sidewalk on Middleton Street and the new skateboard park to prevent conflicts with skaters and traffic on Middleton Street.

George St./McCarty St. Pedestrian Crossing

The Director of Public Works presented information to Council regarding concerns over pedestrian and traffic conflicts at George and McCarty streets in Thamesford. Members of the public have expressed concern over safety issues for students walking to Thamesford Public School from west of George Street. Staff were requested to carry out further research and provide recommendations.

Summer Day Camp and Thamesford Swimming Pool Annual Reports

Council received annual reports from the Day Camp Supervisor and Head Lifeguard at Thamesford Swimming Pool. Both reports contained recommendations for 2019 and provided an excellent review of the activities that took place this past summer.

Embro Fire Station Renovations

Council authorized hiring an engineer and/or architect to prepare drawings for a proposed renovation at Embro Fire Station. A one bay expansion is being proposed along with installation of cistern. The existing meeting room would be expanded to include one of the current fire apparatus bays.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is to be held on November 6, 2018 at 9:30 am at Thamesford Public School.

Thamesford Splash Pad and Skate Park Grand Opening – October 20, 2018 at 1:00 pm

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be first held at the Splash Pad at 224 Seldon Street, then followed by a ribbon cutting at the Skate Board Park at 85 Middleton Street. Refreshments will follow at Thamesford District Recreation Centre.