

The second last meeting of the 2014 – 2018 Council was held at Thamesford Public School on November 6, 2018.

Delegations

Students from TPS did not prepare any presentations but did observe the Council meeting. During staff reports the students asked many questions and fully participated in the meeting.

Public Meetings

Dan Heather, 54 Commissioner Street, Embro, Application for Minor Variance

The applicant first appeared at the October 2, Council meeting and the application was deferred to give the applicant an opportunity to address concerns of the Planning Department. The application was amended, and relief from the provisions of Table 5.1.1.3, Regulations for Accessory Uses in the 'Residential Type 1 Zone (R1)' is being sought to increase the maximum lot coverage and height for a detached accessory structure to facilitate the construction of a detached garage with sufficient floor area and height to store a camping vehicle/trailer. The application was amended to reduce the height variance request from 5.6 m to 5.2 m.

The subject lands comprise an area of approximately 2,006.7 m² (21,600 ft²), have frontage on Commissioner Street, and contain an existing single-detached dwelling and detached garage (to be removed). The surrounding land uses are predominately low density residential, with agricultural land designated for future urban growth to the north. The Committee of Adjustment approved the application, as amended.

Department Reports

Fire

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services have responded to 12 calls in October and a total of 170 year to date. For the same period in 2017, the Fire Service responded to 150 calls.

Thamesford Station Fire Fighters Breakfast is being held on November 18 from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm.

Recreation

The parks are now closed for the winter season. All seasonal buildings and the Thamesford splash pad have been drained and winterized for the season. Arboriculture work will continue throughout Zorra park's this fall with priority on removal of standing dead ash trees.

Recreation staff have developed a draft set of priorities, action plans and strategies for implementing the Recreation Art & Culture Master Plan's recommendations. This draft was presented to ZRAC at the October 29 meeting for further consultation and discussion at the next meeting on November 26.

Building and Drainage

The Building Department issued a total of 16 permits in October and a total of 210 for this year. During the same period in 2017, there were 181 permits issued. A total of six new housing permits were issued in October for a total of 36 for the year. During the same

period in 2017, there were 21 new housing starts. To date, the Township has collected \$227,418 in building permit fees compared to \$236,361 for the same period in 2017.

Public Works

Staff will be completing refills of the sand/salt sheds early in November. There remains a shortage of road salt in Ontario. Calibrations for salt/sand spreaders on Township trucks has been carried out.

The Minimum Maintenance Standards have been amended to allow a municipality to declare a 'Significant Weather Event' (SWE) to allow time to provide maintenance services. During a SWE, the Hours of Service legislation can be ignored until this condition has been lifted. A SWE can be declared by any of the following:

1. By posting a notice on the municipality's website.
2. By making an announcement on a social media platform such as Facebook or Twitter.
3. By sending a press release or similar communication to internet, newspaper, radio or television media.
4. By notification through the municipality's police service.
5. By any other notification method required in a by-law of the municipality.

The Township of Zorra shall declare a SWE based on published weather reports from reputable sources such as Environment Canada. This shall be at the discretion of Township Public Works Supervisory Staff or Township Management Staff. The SWE will be terminated as soon as it is practically possible as determined by staff based on the published weather reports of staff observations.

The County of Oxford initiated their Transportation Master Plan process in 2016. The draft report was presented to the steering committee on October 25, 2018. There is a recommendation to have County Road 25/Zorra Road 92 from County Road 119 to Cobble Hills Road downloaded to the Township. This section of road is in poor condition and there are substandard horizontal/vertical curves that may not meet the posted 80 km/hr posted speed limit. The asphalt is rough and in poor condition. Council passed a resolution objecting to this download.

Corporate Services

Council adopted a standardized Terms of Reference for the three advisory committees, Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee, Zorra Community Policing Committee and Zorra Local Schools Committee.

The Director of Corporate Services presented an election debriefing showing statistics from the recent election. Voter turnout was 43.76% compared with 48.43% in 2014. Zorra had the second highest turnout in Oxford County after the Town of Ingersoll at 45.8%.

Next Meeting

The last Council meeting of this term will be held on November 20, 2018, at 6:30 pm. The inaugural Council meeting will be held in the Beaty Room at 7:00 pm on December 3.