

The last meeting of the 2014 – 2018 Council was held on November 20, 2018.

Public Meetings

Zone Change Application submitted by John and Susanne Langlois and Langlois Farms Limited

Applications for Official Plan Amendment, Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zone Change have been submitted to the County of Oxford and Township of Zorra to facilitate the development of a residential plan of subdivision consisting of 26 lots for single detached dwellings and 1 block for street-fronting townhouses (8 units) on a new street connecting to extensions of Elgin Street and Ross Street in the Village of Embro.

The purpose of the Official Plan Amendment is to re-designate a portion of the subject lands from 'Future Urban Growth' to 'Low Density Residential' to facilitate the proposed subdivision. The Zone Change proposes to rezone the subject lands from 'Development Zone (D)' to 'Special Residential Type 1 Zone (R1-sp)' and 'Special Residential Type 3 Zone (R3-sp)' to permit single detached dwellings and street-fronting townhouses on the lands and provide site specific zoning provisions to permit a maximum lot coverage of 40%.

The applications affect a portion of the property comprising approximately 2.27 ha (5.6 ac) at the southerly end of Ross Street and Elgin Street and the lands outside of the boundary of the plan of subdivision will remain vacant farmland. The former farmhouse and barns have been removed. Reports were submitted by the applicant in support of the proposal, including a Functional Servicing Report, a Development Report and a Stage 1-2 Archaeological Assessment Report.

Several area residents appeared with questions on the proposal, primarily on the connection of Elgin Street to the proposed subdivision. Council passed a resolution in support of the application.

Correspondence and Items Requiring Action

Council Achievements

A report was prepared listing out highlights of Council achievements over the past term. A copy of the publication will be posted on the Township website and paper copies will be made available at the Township Office.

Robinson Pit Annual Report

The Director of Public Works presented the annual operating report on the Robinson Pit. In 2017 the Township did not receive any complaints regarding pit operations. Total use in 2017 amounted to 96,735 tonnes of material including granular B and M as well as winter sand. Of this total, 51,427 went towards maintenance gravelling in the south end.

The annual Compliance Assessment Report noted several small deficiencies that have since been corrected. The report also highlighted that since operation commenced in 2010, the Township has realized savings of \$2,332,523 on an \$800,00 investment.

Thamesford Skate Park Barricade

At their October 16, 2018 meeting, Council directed Recreation Staff to investigate a safety feature similar to those located outside the arena doors and other options for installation along the east side of the Middleton Street sidewalk at the north entrance to the skate park. In consultation with the Zorra Public Works department Recreation Staff investigated options to prevent skate park users from entering the Middleton Street roadway. Staff are recommending the installation of a Pedestrian Barricade as detailed in Ontario Provincial Standard Drawing 980.101. The barricade will be approximately 15 metres long by 90cm high with looped ends and will be similar in style to the offset barriers installed at the south entrance to the skate park.



Fit to Work Policy

With the recent legalization of cannabis, questions arose over use in the workplace and how this would be monitored. In order to set out a standard set of rules, staff undertook a review of policies used in other jurisdictions that also included use of alcohol, prescription drugs and illegal drugs as well.

Impairment by drugs or alcohol can adversely affect the health, safety, performance and conduct of employees on the job, and impose hardships on the Township of Zorra, employees, colleagues and families. The proposed policy sets expectations and clarifies employee obligations in relation to impairment in the workplace. A copy of the policy will be posted on the Township's website and provided to each employee.

Fencing By-law Exemption – 19 Thames Springs Crescent

Council approved an exemption to the Fencing By-law to allow for a 6' fence to be erected on the exterior side lot line rather than being set back 15' from the lot line. The Director of Public Works and Chief Building Official had no objection to the application.

Next Meeting

The inaugural Council meeting will be held in the Beaty Room at Thamesford Library and Resource Centre at 7:00 pm on December 3, 2018.