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## **COUNCIL NEWS**

### **FROM THE SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 COUNCIL MEETING:**

#### **COFFEE BREAK CAMPAIGN**

Judy Willems presented a Coffee Break Kit to Mayor Joyner and was thanked for her presentation and hard work and it was noted that West Lincoln residents would be invited to a coffee break event.

#### **HEALTHY KIDS CHALLENGE**

Mayor Joyner advised that the Region was successful in obtaining funding for the Healthy Kids community Challenge program to help communities address overweight and obesity within the Region.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY – JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL**

Mayor Joyner advised that he had attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the John Calvin School and brought greetings on behalf of the Township.

#### **HARVEST ROUTES CELEBRATION EVENT**

Mayor Joyner that the Harvest Routes celebration of Art and Culture would be held on October 4, 2014 and he invited all residents to come from noon to 7:00 p.m. and see the special musical performance by Ariana Gillis and the various artistic displays.

#### **FRACKING**

On June 23/14, Council adopted the following recommendation:

- (1) That, report PD-072-14, regarding “Official Plan Amendment relating to Fracking”, dated June 9, 2014 be received FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES.
- (2) That, the Province of Ontario be advised that the Township of West Lincoln is not a willing host nor supports the practise of fracking; and,
- (3) That, staff be directed to contact the Association of Municipalities (AMO), the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and any other organization/committee with respect to information and/or initiatives being taken with respect to fracking and report back at the July 2014 Council meeting.

Staff undertook additional investigations regarding this matter and reported that on July 20<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 they communicated with Jayme Campbell, Hydrogeologist with the NPCA, about their research into fracking and they provided the following summary/observations:

- a) The Ministry of Natural Resources and NPCA both conclude that it is unlikely that fracking will become economical in the Niagara Peninsula.
- b) NPCA had some involvement in the concerns that Niagara-on-the-Lake had in 2011 with the proposal to treat fracking water at the sewage treatment plant in Niagara Falls, New York.
- c) New York State has extended their prohibition on fracking.
- d) Other municipalities have looked at treating hydraulic fracturing waste water without success.

Staff will continue to explore the issue of fracking with related experts and respond back to Committee and Council as related updates become available.

**STATUS OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR 2014**

Staff currently provides a year-end annual report to Planning/Building/Environmental Committee (the Committee), once the previous year's Building Department budget has been finalized. Report PD-106-14 was written to provide a status for the current year, at August 31, 2014, in relation to previous years, and is a snap shot of how building permit activity of the current year is unfolding in relation to the last few years.

The estimated Building Permit data, more specifically the number of permits and value as at August 31, 2014 looks to be comparable to previous years with a slight increase over the Year 2013. As of August 31, 2014, 211 building permits were issued with a value of \$223,823.00 as compared to 2013 which had 196 permits issued as of August 31, 2013 with a permit value of \$212,991.00.

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE MURALE UPDATE**

The Township's Heritage Committee applied for Trillium Funding for the installation of a mural at the Murgatroyd Parkette wall. The application was submitted for the July 1, 2014 application deadline and requested \$5,000.00 to cover the cost of the mural and installation. Township Staff have received a letter from the Ontario Trillium Foundation advising that our application has not been accepted for funding. It was identified that the application was denied because there was not sufficient community involvement in the project. The Heritage Committee and Staff will continue to explore the opportunity to put a mural at the Murgatroyd Parkette, however, will wait to review the changes to the Ontario Trillium Fund programs.

**SOUTH CREEK TRAIL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

The construction of South Creek Trail has been completed and Staff are pleased with the final trail. Staff will now forward the invoices to the Region in order to receive the \$75,000.00 that was awarded through the WaterSmart program. News of new trail will also be placed on the Township website.

**OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT # 32–SUSTAINABILITY DRAFT OFFICIAL PLAN POLICIES**

Staff will be circulating the draft Sustainability policies to all agencies for specific input and then will discuss in detail with Regional planning, and a future Recommendation Report will be prepared incorporating input and comments received at the Public Meeting and from multiple review agencies. A second Public Meeting under the Planning Act will be held with respect to Official Plan Amendment No. 32 regarding the Sustainability Draft Official Plan Policies and that the additional agencies as noted in the Public Meeting minutes dated September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 will be notified of the second Public Meeting (hopefully in November) and will be circulated a copy of the draft Official Plan Amendment for review and comment.

**SITE PLAN AUTHORIZING BY-LAW FOR BROOKSIDE AND DRAFT PLAN OF VACANT LAND CONDOMINIUM**

Council authorized entering into a Site Plan Agreement for the Brookside Condominium and approved the draft plan of Vacant Land Condominium for Phelps Homes, subject to specific conditions.

**REGIONAL MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**

On June 14, 2013 the Province approved Amendment 2 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Following approval of the Region's first growth plan amendment (which occurred on July 28, 2014) the Region was then permitted to commence the planning work that is necessary to implement Amendment 2 (RPPA 2-2009, the Region's Growth Management Official Plan Amendment).

Regional Planning Staff intend to commence the municipal comprehensive review process immediately and be completed by the 2016.

Township Staff will be involved in this process and will monitor and report back to Township Committee and Council in a timely fashion. Future Township Budgets will include recommendations of additional financial allocations for local components of the Growth Management work that will be necessary to implement the approved Regional approach to Amendment 2.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Main Administration Office will be closed on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and the Public Works Yard will remain open on these days and the Arena will remain open, subject to program scheduling, from December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to January 1, 2015 inclusive, with the exception of December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**ITEM #A76-14–PETITION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ELIMINATION OF PARKING ON REGIONAL ROAD 20**

Council adopted the following motion relating to a petition submitted regarding opposition to the elimination of parking on Regional Road 20:

- 1) That, the petition submitted on September 15, 2014 by Ivan Carruthers, Representing the Petition Committee and Brent O'Connor, President of the Royal Canadian Legion regarding the elimination of parking on Regional Road 20 in Smithville as outlined in the Regional Niagara Intersection and Operational Improvements on Regional Road 20 project (West Street through Griffin Street North, through to St. Catharine Street); be received and supported; and,
- 2) That, the Township of West Lincoln request that on-street parking not be reduced and that bike lanes be implemented only after the road widening is complete to safely insert bike lanes in addition to on-street parking; and,
- 3) That the Township of West Lincoln request that the Region of Niagara immediately move forward with the Environmental Assessment (EA) and planning required to deliver the planned Smithville by-pass as soon as possible.)

**COUNCIL RECONFIRMS POSITION AS UNWILLING HOST:**

Council adopted the following motion reconfirming their position with respect to being an unwilling host for Industrial Wind Turbines:

That, the Township of West Lincoln hereby reconfirms its position as an unwilling host of industrial wind turbines; and,

That, any approval to enter into a Road Use Agreement to protect the Township's interests does not change its position as an unwilling host; and,

That, the appropriate parties as previously notified, be advised.

**COUNCIL APPROVES ROAD USE AGREEMENT WITH NRWC:**

Council adopted the following motion to authorize a Road Use Agreement with NRWC:

That, a By-law be adopted to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign a Road Use Agreement with the Niagara Region Wind Corporation; and,

That staff be and are hereby directed to implement the terms of the Road Use Agreement; and,

That staff be directed to investigate by-laws from West Lincoln and other municipalities relating to noise, nuisance, lighting, tree removal, dust and hours of operation and report back to Council in January 2015 with the intention of bringing back options for strengthening and/or introducing new and/or enhanced by-laws.

**COMMUNITY CARE FUNDRAISER:**

Councillor Glazier advised Members of Council of an upcoming Community Care fundraiser – Dinner and Silent Auction/Costume Party Event entitled “Gilligan’s Island” on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Covenant Christian School.