

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

REPORT 4-2008

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning and Public Works Committee held in Council Chambers, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 commencing at 1:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Regional Chair Partington, Councillors, Acting Chair, Burroughs; Augustyn, Baty, Casselman, D'Angela, Henderson, Hodgson, Lepp, Marshall, Salci, Timms, Trombetta, Zimmerman.

Staff: Messrs. Farley, Director, Planning Services; Brothers, Commissioner, Public Works; Cousins, Director Transportation Services, Ms. Matthews-Malone, Director, Water & Wastewater; Mr. Robson, Director of Community Integration; Ms. Torbicki, Manager, Waste Policy and Planning; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Ricci, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Ms. Coppola, Manager Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; Mr. Morabito, TEARS; Ms. Morabito, TEARS.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Co-Chairs determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to eleven members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

PRESENTATION

47. **Animal Sanctuary**

Mr. Chris Morabito, owner of the business known as "The Endangered Animal Rescue Society" (TEARS) was present to speak to Committee members with respect to Report DPD 125-2008, Final Recommendations Report Regional Policy Plan Amendment 8-2005 Animal Sanctuary City of Thorold and PD 3-2008, Further Information Regional Policy Plan Amendment 8-2005 Animal Sanctuary City of Thorold.

Mr. Morabito thanked Committee members for the opportunity to speak to these reports and expressed concerns with the way in which the applications were being handled.

Mr. Morabito advised Committee members that his company provided a free service to the community (e.g. animal rescue), a service that was not offered by the Humane Society, Marineland or Zoo's.

Further highlights were, in part, as follows:

- 80% of the woodlot was diseased; their plan would be to turn it into a manageable woodlot
- TEARS standards are above the regulated "roadside zoo's" regulations
- Animal cages have a Smithsonian fashioned design
- Niagara is a hot spot for exotic animals
- Permits were acquired for the mobile home, 2 portables and the dens on the back of the animal cages
- TEARS has the support of the Humane Society

In closing, Mr. Morabito asked that Committee members approve the TEARS application amendment and stated that they are willing to remove the "public" aspect of the sanctuary and operate as a "private" sanctuary only.

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Lepp

That the presentation respecting "The Endangered Animal Rescue Society" (TEARS), be received for information.

Carried.

48. Think n' Drive

Ms. Beyer, Health Promoter, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Division provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, Niagara Think and Drive Campaign Update to Public Health and Social Services Committee and Planning and Public Works Committee.

A summary of the presentation slides included:

- Campaign Goals
- Niagara Fatal Collisions and Deaths
- Pre-launch Activities
- Post-launch Activities
- Communication Plan
- Media Coverage
- Website information
- 2006 Fatal & Serious Collision Map
- Early Wins

Ms. Beyer closed by advising Committee members that next steps would involve community meetings, “Live” Road Safety Challenges, ongoing evaluations, and strategies to evolve the Think and Drive messaging.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That the presentation respecting Niagara Think and Drive Campaign Update to Public Health and Social Services Committee and Planning and Public Works Committee, be received for information.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

49. Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee (RNBC) Proposed Strategic Plan

Councillor Baty provided Committee members with a PowerPoint presentation entitled, Helping Niagara Region Achieve Smart Growth and Healthy Lifestyles Through Sustainable Active Transportation.

Highlights of the presentation were, in part, as follows:

- RNBC Vision
- RNBC Mission
- RNBC Task Forces
- Accomplishments (Policy & Network)
- Accomplishments (Education, Enforcement, Encouragement)
- Policy/Program Context
- Health Benefits linked to Active Transportation

The presentation then outlined the following three “Proposed Strategic Priorities”:

- 1) The RNBC will work towards the implementation of Council’s approved Regional Bikeways Network to ensure dedicated space for cyclists, including the implementation of a bicycle signage program.
- 2) The RNBC will assist Niagara municipalities and other stakeholders with the development and implementation of relevant planning documents, inclusive of land use and active transportation plans that support enhanced infrastructure (inter-connected, multi-modal pathways and trails – both on-road and off-road, facilities such as bike storage/parking at destinations and on buses, etc.) for walking and cycling.
- 3) The RNBC will maintain and expand its partnerships with other local, provincial and bi-national groups and communities to facilitate and promote cycling for transportation, recreation and tourism purposes through education, encouragement and outreach activities for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

Councillor Baty advised Committee members of two Critical Issues that had been identified by the RNBC:

- 1) What organizational structure is needed for active transportation issues?
- 2) Will Niagara Region support the creation of a full-time Sustainable Transportation Coordinator position to guide and facilitate Active Transportation Initiatives?)

The following three recommendations were offered in closing:

- 1) Adopt the three identified priority areas as the focus for RNBC’s work over the next four years.
- 2) Consider an organizational structure to advance active transportation issues.
- 3) Consider the creation of a full-time Sustainable Transportation Coordinator position to guide and facilitate active transportation initiatives.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That the presentation respecting Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Proposed Strategic Plan, be received for information;

That the Planning and Public Works Committee recommend that Regional Council adopt the three identified priority areas as the focus for Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee's work over the next four years;

That recommendation #2 (Consider an organizational structure to advance active transportation issues) and recommendation #3 (Consider the creation of a full-time Sustainable Transportation Coordinator position to guide and facilitate active transportation initiatives), be referred back to staff for a report that takes into consideration the joint mandate between the Greater Niagara Circle Route and the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee; and

That the staff report be forwarded to the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee for discussion.

Carried.

Councillors congratulated Councillor Baty and members of the RNBC for the PowerPoint presentation.

Councillor Baty accepted the invitation from Councillor Casselman to make a presentation to the Culture Committee.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

50. **Niagara's Water Treatment Plant 2007 Summary Reports**
PWA 16-2008

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PWA 16-2008, March 12, 2008 respecting Niagara's Water Treatment Plant 2007 Summary Reports, be received;

That the 2007 Summary Reports for Niagara's six water treatment plants be received in accordance with Schedule 22 of Ontario Regulation 170/03, Safe Drinking Water Act; and

That staff be directed to ensure that the appropriate resolutions are prepared for submission to Regional Council, including authorizing the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk to confirm that the 2007 Summary Reports have been presented and approved by Council.

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

51. Initiation of the 2008 Waste Management Capital Program
PWA 17-2008/ CSD 19-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 17 -2008/CSD 19-2008, March 12, 2008, 2008 respecting, Initiation of the 2008 Waste Management Capital Program, be received;

That financing in the amount of \$3,065,000 gross and net be approved from the 2008 Waste Management Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A;

That approval be given to fund the projects with financing consisting of \$2,685,000 (Long Term Financing 1 – 10 years) and \$380,000 (Waste Management Capital Reserve Fund); and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 17-2008/CSD 19-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

52. Initiation of the 2008 Water Capital Program
PWA 18-2008/CSD 20-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 18-2008/CSD 20-2008, March 12, 2008 respecting, Initiation of the 2008 Water Capital Program, be received;

That financing in the amount of \$2,200,000 gross and net be approved from the 2008 Water Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as

summarized in Appendix A;

That approval be given to fund the projects with financing consisting of \$1,500,000 (Long Term Financing 1 – 20 years); \$200,000 (Water Capital Reserve Fund) and \$500,000 (Development Charge Reserve Fund); and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 18-2008/CSD 20-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

53. Initiation of the 2008 Wastewater Capital Program
PW 19-2008/CSD 21-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 19-2008/CSD 21-2008, March 12, 2008, respecting Initiation of the 2008 Wastewater Capital Program, be received;

That financing in the amount of \$13,670,000 gross and net be approved from the 2008 Wastewater Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A;

That approval be given to fund the projects with financing consisting of \$11,670,000 (Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund) and \$2,000,000 (Long Term Financing 1 – 20 years); and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 19-2008/CSD 21-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

54. Initiation of the 2008 Roads Capital Program
PWA 20-2008/CSD 22-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 20-2008/CSD 22-2008, March 12, 2008, Initiation of the 2008 Roads Capital Program, be received;

That financing in the amount of \$31,420,000 gross and \$21,070,000 net be approved from the 2008 Roads Capital Program and allocated to the individual projects as summarized in Appendix A;

That approval be given to fund the projects with financing consisting of \$2,440,000 Capital Levy; \$4,550,000 Development Charge Reserve Fund; \$14,080,000 Long Term Financing (1 – 20 years); \$3,680,000 External Cost Sharing and \$6,670,000 Subsidies (Gas Tax Revenue);

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 20-2008/CSD 22-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

55. Initiation of Budget
Approval of the 2008 Vehicle and Equipment
Replacement Program, Phase 1
PWA 21-2008/CSD 23-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor D'Angela

That Report PWA 21-2008/CSD 23-2008, March 12, 2008, Initiation of Budget Approval of the 2008 Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program, Phase 1, be received;

That financing (Fleet Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund) in the amount of \$1,800,000 gross and net be approved for Project ZSS0801 Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program from the approved 2008 Buildings & Equipment Capital Budget;

That financing (Capital Levy) in the amount of \$35,000 gross and net be approved for Project ZGD0804 New Vehicle Facilities Maintenance from the approved 2008 Buildings & Equipment Capital Budget;

That financing (Wastewater Reserve Fund) in the amount of \$70,000 gross and net be approved for Project ZSW0803 New Vehicles for Wastewater Operations from the approved 2008 Wastewater Capital Budget;

That staff be authorized to proceed with the proposed 2008 Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Program Phase 1 as outlined in this report; and

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate by-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 21-2008/CSD 23-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

56. Encroachment Agreement
Specialty Living Lincoln Park Inc.,
Regional Road No. 14 (Bartlett Avenue) at
Regional Road No. 81 (Main Street East)
Town of Grimsby
PWA 22-2008/CSD 24-2008

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report PWA 22-2008/CSD 24-2008, March 12, 2008, Encroachment Agreement Specialty Living Lincoln Park Inc., Regional Road No. 14 (Bartlett Avenue) at Regional Road No. 81 (Main Street East) Town of Grimsby, be received;

That the Region enter into an Encroachment Agreement with Specialty Living Lincoln Park Inc. to permit minor fence encroachments within the road allowance for Regional Road No. 14 (Bartlett Avenue) at Regional Road No. 81 (Main Street East), in the Town of Grimsby; and

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 22-2008/CSD 24-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

57. Initiation of Financing for Project ZSW9407
Improvements to Garner Road Lagoon and
Transfer of Funds to Project ZSW0215
Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoons
PWA 23-2008/CSD 25-2008

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report PWA 23-2008/CSD 25-2008, March 12, 2008, Initiation of Financing for Project ZSW9407 Improvements to Garner Road Lagoon and Transfer of Funds to Project ZSW0215 Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoons, be received;

That Wastewater Reserve Fund financing in the amount of \$4,000,000 be approved for Project ZSW9407 Improvements to Garner Road Lagoons included in the approved 2007 Capital Budget;

That financing in the amount of \$655,000 be transferred from Project ZSW9407/SW9407 Improvements to Garner Road Lagoons to Project ZSW0215/SW0215, Decommissioning of Port Robinson Lagoon in the City of Thorold;

That the engineering agreement with Associated Engineering (Ont.) Ltd. for the Port Robinson Lagoon project be amended to include additional engineering fees in the amount of \$71,944.00;

That these engineering costs be charged against Project ZSW0215/SW0215.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 23-2008/CSD 25-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

58. Supplementary Information Regarding the Establishment of a Project Management Structure for the Wainfleet Servicing Project
PWA 24-2008/DPD 10-2008/CSD 26-2008/PHD 09-2008

Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Timms

That Report PWA 24-2008/DPD 10-2008/CSD 26-2008/PHD 09-2008, March 12, 2008, Supplementary Information Regarding the Establishment of a Project Management Structure for the Wainfleet Servicing Project, be received; and

That the revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Advisory Committee for the Wainfleet Servicing Project be adopted.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 24-2008/DPD 10-2008/CSD 26-2008/PHD 09-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

59. One-Time Capital Funding to Improve and Expand Public Transit as Announced in the 2007 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review (Fall Economic Statement)
PWA 25-2008

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That Report PWA 25-2008, March 12, 2008, respecting One-Time Capital Funding to Improve and Expand Public Transit as Announced in the 2007 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review (Fall Economic Statement), be received;

That Regional Council approve the attached By-Law approving the Region's participation in the Province of Ontario's Fall Economic Statement where the Province has committed substantial one-time capital funding for public transit systems;

That the Regional Clerk be directed to ensure that the appropriate By-laws are prepared for submission to Regional Council;

That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the authorizing By-law between the Province and the Niagara Region; and

That the funds be placed in a Capital Reserve to fund future Niagara Specialized Transit vehicle replacement or expansion.

Carried.

Quorum

At this point in the meeting, quorum was achieved.

60. Final Recommendations Report
Regional Policy Plan Amendment 8-2005
Animal Sanctuary
City of Thorold

DPD 125-2007

Moved by Councillor Timms
Seconded by Councillor Hodgson

That Report DPD 125-2007, March 12, 2008, Final Recommendations Report Regional Policy Plan Amendment 8-2005 Animal Sanctuary City of Thorold, be referred back to staff for report;

That this report take into consideration new information concerning the proponent removing the request to operate publicly and instead operate as a private sanctuary only;

That the proponent be asked to supply further wetland information; and

That the staff report be forwarded to the City of Thorold for discussion and review.

Carried.

61. Phase 2 Raw Water for Agricultural Irrigation Study
Summary of Major Conclusions and Next Steps
DPD 5-2008

Moved by Councillor Hodgson
Seconded by Councillor Zimmerman

That Report DPD 5-2008, March 12, 2008, respecting Phase 2 Raw Water for Agricultural Irrigation Study, be received and **amended** as follows;

That the Regional Planning and Development Department staff and Public Works staff work with the Agricultural Task Force to secure adequate funding and to consider an appropriate management system as well as legal and legislative issues for a communal irrigation system in Lincoln/west St. Catharines below the Escarpment and for an expansion to the Niagara-on-the-Lake irrigation system;

That staff report back to Council to seek authorization before implementing an irrigation system; and

That recommendation three be referred back to staff for further report respecting funding from senior government levels, addressing design and legal issues, the proposed first phase of the irrigation system for the Lincoln/west St. Catharines irrigation system and the expansion to the Niagara-on-the-Lake irrigation system proceeding forward as a demonstrations project.

Carried.

Quorum

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Co-Chairs determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to ten members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 96-2007.

62. Moved by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Councillor Augustyn

That the February 14, 2008, Minutes of the Wainfleet Servicing Project, be received and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Carried.

(Please note that the minutes of the Wainfleet Servicing Project can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

63. Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following items be received and the recommendations contained therein approved:

Minutes	Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Thursday, September 20, 2007
Minutes	Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Thursday, November 1, 2007
Minutes	Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Thursday, December 13, 2007
Minutes	Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee Thursday, January 10, 2008

Carried.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

64. 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region – Wide Road Safety Campaign Update

PWA 15-2008/PHD 05-2008

Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That Report PWA 15-2008/PHD 05-2008, March 12, 2008 respecting 2007-2008 Think and Drive Region – Wide Road Safety Campaign Update, be received for information.

Carried.

(Please note that Report PWA 15-2008/PHD 05-2008 can be found behind the JNT RPTS Blue Book Tab)

65. Moved by Councillor Augustyn
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

That the following items be received for information:

PWP 01-2008	Projects/Studies Activity Report Waste Management Services Division
PWP 05-2008	Niagara's Blue Box Program - Report on Current State & Opportunities for Improvement (Best Practices Report)
PWP 10-2008	Water and Wastewater Benchmarking Initiatives
PWP 11-2008	Drinking Water Quality Management Standard Quarterly Update
PWP 12 2008	A Review of Other Possible Regional Dispatch Locations for the Niagara Specialized Transit Buses
PWP 13-2008	Public Works Staff Comments on Development and Related Proposals
PWP 14-2008	Public Works Staff Comments on Municipal Servicing Applications

PWP 15-2008	Launch of Pilot Battery Recycling Collection Program
PWP 16 2008	2007 Summary of Water and Sewage Flows
PD 3-2008	Further Information Regional Policy Plan Amendment 8-2005 Animal Sanctuary City of Thorold
PD 4-2008	Further Information Phase 2 Raw Water for Agricultural Irrigation Study Summary of Major Conclusions and Next Steps
Minutes	Waste Management Planning Steering Committee Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Minutes	Transportation Strategy Steering Committee Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Minutes	Smarter Niagara Steering Committee Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Minutes	Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee Thursday, January 31, 2008

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

66. Letter of Concern

Councillor Timms stated that he had received a letter of concern respecting a pedestrian crossing at Regional Road/ Niagara Street and Laura Secord High School and inquired as to whether staff had received it as well.

Mr. Cousins advised Committee members that he had not received the letter but would investigate and follow up.

67. Letter of Resignation

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Marshall, Mr. Brothers advised that Mr. Barry Friesen's letter of resignation had been received, effective March 25, 2008. He further stated that Mr. Friesen had accepted the position of Regional Vice President of Product Care Association in Toronto.

Mr. Brothers assured Committee members that staff will be moving forward with a transitional plan and an internal and external staffing competition immediately.

He expressed appreciation of Mr. Friesen's contributions to the Region and wished him well in his future endeavors.

(Refer to Councillor Information Requests)

COUNCILLOR INFORMATION REQUESTS

Staff was requested to:

- Provide a breakdown of data (more specific / comparison stats) respecting each municipality's collisions and fatalities (municipal roads, regional roads and highways) (Refers to Minute Item #48) (Councillor Henderson)
- Ensure that in subsequent reports staff include footnotes explaining the fluctuations in flows (Refers to Minute Item #50) (Councillor Augustyn)
- Councillor Baty will report back on the recommendations that are substantive, which are contained in the Regional Niagara Bicycling Committee's minutes. (Refers to Minute Item #63)
- Forward an e-mail to all staff and members of Council informing them of Mr. Barry Friesen's resignation (Refers to Minute Item #67) (Councillor Marshall)

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m., to meet again on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters.

Gary Burroughs
Acting Chair

Lisa Ricci
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk