

Wainfleet Water & Sewer Servicing Project  
Public Liaison Committee

Meeting Notes of March 17, 2009  
Wainfleet Township Hall

In attendance:

Jayne Campbell

Joedy Groulx

Anne Hetherington

April Jeffs

Wayne Redshaw

Mayor Barbara Henderson, Township of Wainfleet

Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Wainfleet

Kimberlee Lambe, Communication Specialist, Niagara Region

Mary Lou Tanner, Manager, Niagara Region

Mike Seguin – Kossuth Park Recreation Association

Dan Molner – Kossuth Park Cottager

Ray Royer – Kossuth Park Cottager

Regrets:

Ashleigh Miatello- Skrubbeltrang

Betty Matthews-Malone, Director of Water & Wastewater Services, Niagara Region

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:50 p.m.; the agenda was adopted as presented.

### **2. Kossuth Park Presentation**

Mike Seguin of the Kossuth Park Recreation Association made a presentation to the Committee expressing their concerns about the potential impacts that full servicing would have on their park. Of particular note was the fact that there are 55 cabins on land the Association owns. The cabins are owned by cottagers – many of whom who had these cabins in their families since the 1940s.

Mr. Seguin expressed a number of concerns including: the importance of the park remaining seasonal, the aspect of affordability, and the desire to work with the Committee to come to an amiable conclusion.

There was good discussion among the group and many questions asked/answered including:

How many members are in the Association? (55 owners with two people max per cottage for a total of approximately 100).

How do members currently pay for park upgrades? (There's a maintenance fee and some fundraising to cover costs).

How old is the park's septic system? (It was updated approximately 10-15 years ago. It is pumped out and inspected as is required. The Association is currently

putting money in a reserve fund to upgrade the system or prepare for the central servicing).

The Mayor noted that she was pleased the Association came forward and brought their concerns to the Committee's attention.

The members from Kossuth Park left and the remainder of the meeting commenced.

### **3. Notes from February 17, 2009**

The notes from February 17 were adopted with a modification noting that Helen Hoskin of the Wainfleet Ratepayer's Association was not in attendance for the whole meeting. She arrived after the meeting had already started.

**Action** – Notes to be revised to reflect the change and Township/Niagara Region staff to post meeting notes to websites.

### **4. Township New Official Plan Update**

It was reported that the OP visioning sessions are going well and are being well attended. There are more opportunities to become involved

### **5. Required Studies Update**

5a). Socio-Economic - Regional staff are working on a draft report on the results of the Socio-Economic study and will be presenting that information at the June 20 public meeting. The meeting, tentatively scheduled from 9am to 1pm at the Brethren in Christ Church will also provide an update on the other studies.

5 b). Natural Resources - Dillon Consulting is the selected bidder.

5 c). Archaeology - We are negotiating with a preferred vendor.

5 d). Design – selecting engineering consultant next week.

5 e). Financial – selecting consultant over the next four to five weeks.

### **6. Public Liaison Committee Meet and Greet Update**

The Meet and Greet report submitted by Sally Leppard of Lura Consulting, will be posted to the Region's website. It was agreed that continued use of a facilitator for public meetings would be useful.

It was suggested that Mary Lou Tanner and Kimberlee Lambe review the current list of Q & As and modify/add to the list to address the misconceptions that seem to continue to arise.

**Action: Mary Lou Tanner and Kimberlee Lambe review the current list of Q & As and modify/add to the list to address the misconceptions that seem to continue to arise.**

### **6 b). Summary of Ratepayers Association Meeting with PLC**

It was asked whether there were issues with bringing the servicing down private roads. Mary Lou replied that these issues will be brought before Council to allow them to provide direction. It was noted that the Township has legal access to expropriate land/houses etc. However, it was also noted that there is a multitude of

policy decisions that have to be made by both Township and Regional Councils to determine what's done in special cases.

b) It was suggested by Betty Konc, during her presentation that there is the potential of an additional 9,900 homes to be developed along Wainfleet's Lakeshore. This information is misleading. Wainfleet can continue to expect its historical growth of approximately 20 homes/year. Servicing is not being extended to the whole municipality.

c) Information presented by Betty Konc on the wells in Wainfleet caused some confusion. The numbers used indicate that of the 1,364 homes in the BWA, 380 get their water by truck, 550 are well owners and 435 have cisterns. The Committee was confused over the difference between the 380 homes getting 'trucked in' water and those 435 homes that have cisterns.

d) It was asked why Wainfleet would be 'hooking up' to the system in Port Colborne that was 'failing and inadequate'. It should be noted that the plant and systems in Port Colborne are not failing. As with any water treatment facility in Ontario, the system must meet stringent regulations with respect to water quality and public safety. Further, there are already plans to increase the system capacity to meet the demands of Wainfleet residents – should the project move forward.

## **7. Other Business**

It was asked why Regional Council doesn't ask for an amendment to the EA to require a "Plan B". The EA process is used to determine the most viable way of correcting the problem – it is not intended to provide a "Plan B".

It was also asked whether there will be enough funds to move forward with the project. Mary Lou replied that there are a variety of different funding models being evaluated and that staff are also continuing to look for funding opportunities.

There was some question about the role of the PLC and whether they were doing what they were supposed to be because they're finding only the Ratepayers are contacting them. They are disappointed that they have not heard from other residents.

There was a lengthy discussion about the request to hold 'open meetings'. However, it was decided that the meetings would remain closed at this time to allow for an honest, open exchange of information and to be able to get as much work done as possible. Should anyone or any group have questions and want to address the PLC they are more than welcome to do so.

It was suggested that more information on the role of the PLC be included in the Mayor's newsletter, as well as the PLC member's contact information.

## **8. Communications Received**

The PLC was informed that someone has contacted the Privacy Commissioner to ask that the Socio-Economic survey be redone on the grounds that (in their opinion) the data was flawed. They also asked for, and received, copies of the questions.

The survey evaluation was based on 324 valid surveys from homeowners living along the lakeshore.

Regional staff are working on a draft report on the results of the Socio-Economic study and will be presenting that information at the June 20 public meeting. The meeting, tentatively scheduled from 9am to 1pm at the Brethren in Christ Church will also provide an update on the other studies.

Meeting adjourned – 9 pm.

Next meeting – May 19, 2009, 7 p.m. Wainfleet Township Hall