

VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD MINUTES

Council Meeting – June 14, 2005

6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers, Point Edward Municipal Office
135 Kendall Street, Point Edward, Ontario

Council Members Present:

Mayor Kirkland Deputy Mayor Robson
Councillor Romlewski Councillor Bourrie

Staff Present:

CAO Cramp

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

PLANNING

1. Update on the Status of the Official Plan
2. Circulation/Public Participation Program for Official Plan

The planning portion of the meeting was deferred to a later date as Dave Posliff was unable to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS (COUNCIL ACTION)

1. Letter from Kevin H. Smith, Goodwill Industries dated June 7, 2005 re: requesting permission to have a BBQ under the Bluewater Bridges for Saturday, July 23, 2005 during the Mackinaw Weekend events.

Resolution #1

Moved by Councillor Romlewski

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Robson

THAT the request from Kevin Smith to hold a barbeque on July 23, 2005, be rejected as it would be direct competition to the contractor; and further that a copy of the Waterfront Rental Policy be provided.

CARRIED.

2. Letter from Mackenzie Kada, Community Living Sarnia-Lambton requesting permission to hold a Fun Day on Thursday, June 30 for Summer Supported Employment at the Point Edward Waterfront Park.

Resolution #2

Moved by Councillor Romlewski

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT the request from the Community Living Sarnia-Lambton to hold a Fun Day in the Waterfront Park on June 30, 2005, be approved provided they meet with Village officials to ensure that the appropriate area of the park be used and that no damage is done to the sprinkler system, pergola, etc.

CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Consent to Sever land by Tosh Development Ltd. In part of of Lot 10 and 69, Plan 464

This application was provided to Council for information. There were no objections at this time.

Consideration re: Hwy 402 Reconstruction Alternatives

Len Kozachuk, Patrick Puccini (both of URS Consulting) and Michael Swim, P. Eng., MTO were present to discuss the Hwy. 402 alternatives. Copies of the presentation by Mr. Kozachuk are available in the office.

Mr. Kozachuk did note that Phase 1 of the Reconstruction should begin in 2007 following the Blue Water Bridge Authority reconstruction work.

Councillor Romlewski advised that he likes the idea of barriers because it avoids the glaring lights. He is concerned with the 70 km/hr zone from Colborne to the Bridge Plaza. He also wanted to ensure that there would continue to be some green space along Hwy. 402 after Hwy. 40.

Councillor Bourrie noted that the Memorial Day weekend for back-ups would be a poor example of the queuing because there would be an abnormally large traffic volume.

Councillor Bourrie asked if they would be meeting with some of the affected businesses. Mr. Kozachuk advised that he would be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday and with Mr. Jongsma on Wednesday.

Councillor Bourrie asked if the high mass illumination is required. Mr. Kozachuk commented that the MTO has warrants that they must consider and they are required to use that formula. As well, they are trying to maximize the width of pavement which leaves less room for the lighting. However, they can look at it.

Councillor Bourrie asked about the concept that has been mentioned in the last couple of days regarding Canatara Park and the Sarnia Golf & Curling Club being used for bridge purposes. Mr. Kozachuk advised that this is a concept that has been brought forward by the Ambassador Bridge. The Blue Water Bridge Authority knew nothing about this idea and do not endorse it.

Deputy Mayor Robson expressed concern with the declining speed limit as you approach the Bridges. When you slow down to the proper speed limit, others fly by. She has seen a mechanism that shows your speed limit from the road and flashes to "Slow Down". Could that be used in place of the speed reductions. Deputy Mayor Robson feels that the two full lanes of trucks will cause a bigger problem for the Village of Point Edward. The air quality and noise will be compounded.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that the two additional lanes will provide flexibility which should result in less queuing. The air quality and noise will continue to be monitored.

Deputy Mayor Robson asked if there would continue to be a turnaround for the automobiles on their way to the U.S. Mr. Kozachuk confirmed that the turnaround would remain.

Councillor Romlewski stated that the traffic would be doubled up in the urban area. He noted that the Christina Street overpass will also be a problem.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that they are working out alternatives for Christina Street overpass at this time. They will likely move the centerline of Christina St. to the east. The structure will be re-profiled.

Councillor Bourrie asked if more signage could be included for Front Street. Mr. Kozachuk advised that they can work on signage in the future and can include local attractions. He noted that 90% of the traffic are proceeding on over the Bridge. How much to you compromise the design is a consideration.

M. Swim advised that signage is important and will be worked on as the project progresses.

Deputy Mayor Robson advised that the Village of Point Edward is here and here to stay. We will continue to fight for our residents. Signage is needed.

M. Swim reiterated that the signage is normally dealt with during the detailed design. Signage has to give people choices. Hopefully queuing will only occur for a few number of hours on a few days. It would normally not be that many hours out of the total hours in the week. When there is no queue, all four lanes can be used as a normal 4-lane highway would.

M. Swim also commented that the MTO does not feel that the “slow down” signage works over time. For example, if you see a police car, you automatically slow down. However, if a car was placed in one area all the time, you begin to ignore it. It has no effect any more. It works best when it is portable and it can be moved from one place to another.

Mayor Kirkland asked if it would be possible to place a Point Edward sign on the Christina Street overpass.

M. Swim advised that there is a ‘landscape sign’ policy and we can contact M. Swim for further information. Again this type of thing would be dealt with at the detailed design stage.

Deputy Mayor Robson noted that it was just noticed that Front Street and Christina Street were to be temporarily closed on June 17 and that the Village had not been notified. M. Swim advised that he would contact the Chatham District Office.

Mayor Kirkland thanked M. Swim for providing the comment sheets from the Public Information Centre and the Air Quality monitors on the Public Works Garage.

Mr. Robert Swift was present and commented that the MTO has not proven the need based on many months of planning. The comments regarding queues on holidays are car-related. When extra lanes are placed in a high density area, there will be more pollution. You have to prove need. It will cost a lot of dollars that could be better spent on health or education. He asked how they could justify this work when there is an indication that there has been no queuing.

Mr. Kozachuk commented that it is justified based on the International Border crossing. There is a need for free flow of the public and goods. Reacting in advance to concerns is their role and they must make plans to accommodate these issues. They are still dependent on the time-frame for works in the United States. The truck traffic has been increasing. The Ministry is planning now to be ready when it is needed.

Mr. Swift noted that they do not have any hard evidence and there is no rationale or reasons provided.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that an explanation for need will be included in the final report and will be part of the documentation. It is a very fragile state. If one or two variables change, the queues will return.

Mr. George Freeman noted that he was amazed that the MTO can close the ramps to the Village without any notification to Village officials.

Mr. Freeman also noted that he does not feel the project has been justified. He does not feel it is necessary to make the area west of Indian like the City of Chicago with the high level illumination and four lanes. It is not necessary.

Mayor Kirkland thanked the Consultants and Ministry for attending the meeting and keeping Council informed on the progress.

BY-LAWS

1. By-law Number 19 of 2005, being a By-law to Confirm the Resolutions of Point Edward Council which were adopted up to and including June 14, 2005.

Resolution #3

Moved by Councillor Bourrie

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Robson

THAT By-law Number 19 of 2005, being a By-law to Confirm the Resolutions of Point Edward Council which were adopted up to and including June 14, 2005, be given a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD READING and FINALLY PASSED this 14th day of June, 2005.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS

Deputy Mayor Robson advised that Tuesday, June 28 is confirmed for Council. June 27 is the Bridgeview School Graduation.

Deputy Mayor Robson reminded Council of the Strawberry Social on June 26 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Councillor Bourrie requested that the Public Works Committee review the Holder's Lane entrance to Michigan Ave. as there was an accident at that location.

Councillor Bourrie advised that there have been problems on Victoria Ave as there is parking occurring on both sides and there are no stop signs between Alfred and Livingston. Also there is a lot of speeding on Albert Street. There should be a 4-way stop on Albert and Charles Streets and on Albert and Alexandra Ave.. These matters are to be referred to the Police Services Board and the Public Works Committee for their consideration.

Councillor Bourrie noted that there have been concerns expressed regarding roller blading and bicycling on the walkway. The problem is that some people are not courteous and use no common sense.

Deputy Mayor Robson noted that the OACA Conference at the Holiday Inn went very well. There were many exceptional comments about the Village.

Councillor Romlewski commented that he had been at a Transit meeting where they did some brainstorming and looked at future improvements for the system. Deputy Mayor Robson advised that a meeting has been scheduled with Jim Stevens regarding the transit system in Point Edward.

Councillor Romlewski asked if the signs have been taken down on the Village property adjacent to the streets. The signs have been taken down but one has been placed on private property near the street.

Mayor Kirkland commented that everyone who worked at the OACA Conference did an excellent job. He mentioned that Deputy Mayor Robson had acted as tour guide for the companion program and she received great comments. Many comments were received from the visitors regarding how impressive the Village of Point Edward is and how blue the water is. They plan to come again.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #4

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT the Council Meeting be adjourned at 7:32 p.m. until the June 28th, 2004 call of the Chair or at such time as a Special Committee meeting is held to discuss legal matters, property matters or personnel matters.

Mayor Dick Kirkland

CAO Peggy Cramp