



Wasaga Beach Council Highlights

From the Nov. 28, 2017 meeting

Enhanced waterfront safety strategy for next year

Council approved an enhanced waterfront safety strategy for 2018.

The strategy will focus on four key elements:

- A signage program in Beach Area One and Beach Area Two;
- A waterfront safety community education program;
- A Life Saving Society Audit;
- A Red Flag Program with signage at the river mouth.

Council has earmarked \$22,404 in the draft 2018 budget in order to cover the cost of the strategy.

As well, staff was directed to work with Ontario Parks on the implementation of proposed Waterfront Safety Enhancements.

Roundabout benefits presented at Coordinated Committee

Council was advised that at the Nov. 9 Development Services Section of Coordinated Committee meeting staff presented information about the benefits of the proposed roundabout at Main and Beck streets.

Councillor Bonnie Smith, Chair of the Development Services Section, told council the main benefit is the traffic calming function, leading to a reduced number of accidents and an intersection that is safer for pedestrians.

The proposed roundabout will be considered as part of an Environmental Assessment process for Main Street that is proposed for 2018.

The public will have an opportunity to formally comment on the proposed roundabout during that process.

Council also received for information a staff report on the roundabout.

For more on the benefits of a roundabout at Main and Beck streets, click here:

<http://www.wasagabeach.com/Business%20and%20Economic%20Development%20Documents/Roundabouts.pdf>

Street name approved for development

A street name for the Westbury development in the town's east end was approved by council.

The road will be named Eberhardt Drive. The development is adjacent to the Public Works Yard, just southeast of the intersection at River Road West and Westbury Road.

The Eberhardt name has long been associated with Wasaga Beach.

A bit more on the family here:

<http://www.wasagabeach.com/Municipal%20Archives%20Documents/FROM%20THE%20ARCHIVES%20-%20Big%20Fish.pdf>

Planning firm retained to help with downtown

Council approved using WSP Group to assist the municipality with the creation of required planning documents for the new downtown.

Specifically, the company will help with the creation of Official Plan policies, Zoning Bylaw regulations, and Urban Design Guidelines. These will all be subject to public input.

The firm's services will cost \$32,000, funded from the \$500,000 that was approved as part of the 2017 budget for implementing the Downtown Master Plan.

River Road West property declared surplus

Property at 550 River Rd. W. was declared surplus by council.

Council also approved the "direct sale" method to sell the property to the abutting property owner, based on the appraised value of the land.

As well, council directed the municipality to provide notice of the proposed sale.

The General Government Committee, at its Nov. 9 meeting, declared the property surplus, subject to final council approval.

The parcel is home to the Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce Office and Visitor Information Centre. The chamber leases the building from the town.

The municipality no longer requires the land or the building because in 2016 council decided to phase out the delivery of tourism services by the chamber.

By Jan. 1, 2019, the town will be fully responsible for the provision of tourism services. It's anticipated that tourism services will be provided from a space at or near the beachfront.

The chamber will be invited to remain at the River Road West property up to five

years, subject to paying rent and operating costs.

Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan received

Council received the 2018-2022 Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for review and comment.

Once council has provided feedback to staff, the draft will be brought back to council for final consideration.

The plan describes the measures the town has taken to identify, remove, and prevent barriers for people with disabilities.

The plan also identifies future goals.

The public is welcome to comment on the draft plan. Find the plan here:

<http://www.wasagabeach.com/Accessibility%20Documents/2018%20Multi%20Year%20Accessibility%20Plan.pdf>

Feedback is due by Dec. 4. It can be sent to clerk Andrea Fay at:

clerk@wasagabeach.com.

Comments can also be dropped off at town hall, 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Community Improvement Plan adopted for downtown

Council approved a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the new downtown.

The CIP is a planning tool under the Planning Act that allows the municipality to offer grant programs to assist the town in realizing its planning vision – in this case the Downtown Master Plan.

The CIP also allows the town to acquire and prepare property within the designated area for the purpose of implementing the objectives of the CIP.

Land can be acquired in many different ways, through an agreement of purchase and sale, trade, transfer, easement, or expropriation.

To learn more about the CIP, check out the staff report here:

<http://www.wasagabeach.com/Business%20and%20Economic%20Development%20Documents/2017-11-21%20CIP%20recommendation%20report%20COW.pdf>

For more on Community Improvement Planning, check out the province's Community Improvement Planning Handbook here:

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page1297.aspx>

Additional provincial information about CIPs can be found here:

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page6850.aspx>

Town applies for \$100,000 Seniors Community Grant

Town council is hoping it can secure a \$100,000 Seniors Community Grant from the province.

Council approved applying for the grant on Tuesday night.

The grant program gives funding to groups and organizations for projects that encourage seniors to be active, healthy, and engaged in their community.

If the application is successful, the municipality will put the funds towards recreation programs for seniors age 55 and older.

In permitting staff to apply for the grant, council also recommended earmarking \$25,000 in the 2018 budget – money that would be used on new recreation programs for seniors, if the grant application is successful.

Public meeting held on affordable housing project

Council hosted a public meeting about a County of Simcoe affordable housing project proposed for 175 Zoo Park Rd.

The 99-unit project requires an Official Plan amendment from “Tourism Commercial” to “High Density” residential before it can go ahead.

A zoning bylaw amendment is also needed for the project.

The county’s plan is to build a four-storey “L” shaped structure that will include one, two and three-bedroom suites.

Rents will be approximately 70 to 80 percent of the average market rent, as

assessed by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

One resident at the public meeting spoke in favour of the project. Another resident expressed concern about the proximity of the proposal to his home, and expressed concern about a loss of privacy. Still, the individual conceded the project is important.

Planning staff will consider the feedback and report back to committee.

The county would like to start construction next year and have the facility open in 2019.

Residents interested in living at the complex should contact the county. Find more information here:

<https://www.simcoe.ca/SocialHousing/Pages/home.aspx>

Sky Blue condo public meeting

A public meeting for a proposed condominium development at 66-90 River Rd. E. was held.

Known as Sky Blue Condominiums, the proposal requires an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning Bylaw Amendment, and Site Plan approval in order to move forward.

The plan is to erect a four-storey 50-unit building, complete with underground and at-grade parking.

Public feedback at the meeting included a concern about the height of the proposed building.

Comments will be considered by planning staff and a report will be brought to committee.

The vacant site was once home to the Allistonia, a hotel and bar.

Council Ok's bylaw to purchase 21 Main St. property

Council passed a bylaw authorizing the purchase of 21 Main St. at a price of \$749,000.

The closing date on the transaction is Dec. 15, 2017.

The effect of the purchase is to add the vacant piece of land to the town holdings at Beach Area One, adjacent to Main Street.

Specifically, the property is located in the proposed "Priority Investment Area" in the "Beach District" of the new downtown. The property is currently used as a parking lot.

The cost of the purchase will be funded through the town's Working Funds Reserve.

For the time being, the lot will continue to be used as a parking lot. Longer term it is intended to form part of the Anchor Development/Festival square in the new Downtown Beach District.

-Wasaga Beach Council Highlights is produced monthly by the town's Communications Department.

-For the official record of council's meeting, please see the minutes at www.wasagabeach.com.

-Follow the Town of Wasaga Beach on Facebook and Twitter.

-For information on the Downtown Master Plan, please visit www.BuildWasaga.com.

-You can watch council's meetings thanks to Rogers Television. Find the meetings here:

<http://www.rogerstv.com/show?sid=5800&rid=72&lid=7>