

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending March 6, 2015

REPORTS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Town of Aurora Council Resolution Regarding Bill 52 – the Protection of Public Participation Act
2. City of Kingston Council Resolution Regarding the New Multi Residential Property Tax Class

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership – Election of Officers Minutes

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None



Legal & Legislative Services
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Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

February 24, 2015

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of February 10, 2015
Motion (e) Councillor Thompson; Re: Bill 52, the Protection of Public
Participation Act**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its Council meeting held on February 10, 2015 and in this regard Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently introduced “Bill 52, Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014”; and

WHEREAS Bill 52 seeks to amend the *Courts of Justice Act*, the *Libel and Slander Act* and the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* in order to protect expression on matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS Bill 52 is commonly referred to as Anti-SLAPP legislation and is intended to enact many of the recommendations put forward by the Anti-SLAPP Advisory Panel of 2010; and

WHEREAS SLAPP litigation, an acronym for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, is a tactic which is often viewed as a means to silence, intimidate and deter people from participating in discussions on matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS the Province has stated that the ability to freely participate in public discussion about matters of public interest, without fear of retribution, is fundamental to a fair and democratic society.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora express its support for Bill 52 which should help protect and encourage freedom of expression on matters of the public interest and discourage the use of the courts in ways that unduly limit that freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor be requested to write a letter and forward this resolution to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Chris Ballard, MPP for Newmarket-Aurora, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and

Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution re Bill 52, the Protection of Public Participation Act
To: All Ontario Municipalities
February 24, 2015
Page 2 of 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clerk be requested to circulate this resolution to all other municipalities in Ontario to request endorsement of this resolution be sent directly to the Government of Ontario.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen M. A. Huycke
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

SH/lb



Office of the City Clerk

March 4, 2015

Via Email

To All Municipalities over 30,000 residents:

RE: Kingston City Council Meeting – March 3, 2015

I would confirm that Kingston City Council at its regular meeting held on March 3, 2015, approved the following resolution, being New Motion 1:

Whereas currently under Ontario Regulation 282/98 the New Multi Residential Property Tax Class excludes the original residential units when a property is expanded beyond 6 units and may substantially increase property taxes to landlords, which is a major disincentive to constructing additional units, even if a landlord has such capacity; and

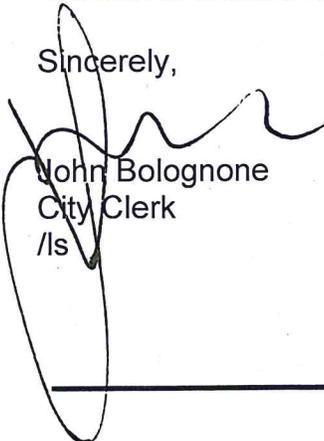
Whereas the province is encouraging urban intensification, including secondary suites, in order to increase housing stock and affordability, under their Provincial Policies Statements;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the City of Kingston encourage the Ontario Government to amend legislation to allow for an increase in units up to a maximum of 10 units on the land, built to Code, and that the tax class be established as New Multi-Residential for the entire property (including the original units), in order to encourage additional density in both new and renovated apartments; and

That copies of this motion be shared with the Premier of Ontario and both leaders of the Opposition, AMO and FCM, and all Ontario Municipalities with a population greater than 30,000

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


John Bolognone
City Clerk
/s/

The Corporation of the City of Kingston

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Grand River Conservation Authority General Membership Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2015

The following are the minutes of the General Membership Meeting held at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 23, 2015 at the Administration Center, Cambridge, Ontario.

Members Present:

J. Mitchell, Chair, L. Armstrong, B. Banbury, B. Bell, B. Coleman, B. Corbett, S. Foxton, G. Gardhouse, R. Hillier, J. Jamieson, B. Lee*, F. Morison, J. Nowak, V. Prendergast, M. Salisbury, P. Salter, S. Shantz, W. Stauch, W. Wettlaufer, C. White, G. Wicke

Members Regrets:

H. Jowett, K. Linton, G. Lorentz, W. Roth, S. Simons

Staff:

J. Farwell, K. Murch, D. Bennett, D. Boyd, N. Davy, S. Radoja, T. Ryan, B. Brown, J. Ivey, B. Parrott, S. Wilbur

Also Present:

R. Martin, Cambridge Times; L. Jetchick, Friends of Dumfries; J. Rzadki, Conservation Ontario; S. Kraemer, KPMG

1. Call to Order:

J. Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 13 members constitute a quorum (1/2 of members appointed by participating municipalities)

The Secretary-Treasurer called the roll and certified a quorum with 20 members present. A total of 21 members attended the meeting.

3. Chair's Remarks:

J. Mitchell welcomed members, staff and guests and introduced J. Rzadki and S. Kraemer who would be involved in the election of officers. She made the following comments:

- On January 14, 2015 J. Farwell and N. Davy met with Jeff Yurek, the MPP from Elgin-Middlesex-London. He is also the Critic of Transportation for the PC Caucus.
- On January 21, 2015 J. Farwell and S. Radoja presented the 2015 budget to City of Guelph council.
- On January 22, 2015 J. Farwell, K. Murch and J. Mitchell presented the 2015 budget to Brant County council.
- The members were given an invitation to attend the opening of Ocean Bound, a new exhibit at the Waterloo Region Museum. The opening is on January 31, 2015 from 9: a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) and Grand River Conservation Foundation (GRCF) have supported the creation of the local elements of the exhibit which is focused on water and watersheds. The exhibit will run until May 10, 2015.
- The annual Heritage Day Workshop will be held at the John McCrae Royal Canadian Legion Branch 57 on Watson Parkway South in Guelph on February 13, 2015. W. Stauch referred the members to the information he had placed on their desks and asked that anyone wishing to attend complete the registration form and return it to him. J. Mitchell advised the members that the Workshop is partially funded with income from the Thiess Riverprize Endowment.
- *B. Lee joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.
- J. Mitchell introduced new members G. Gardhouse, M. Salisbury and C. White who each spoke of their reasons for wishing to be a member of GRCA. She introduced G. Wicke to the new members as he had not been in attendance at the previous meeting.

4. Review of Agenda:

There were no additions to, or deletions from, the agenda.

Moved by: S. Foxton
 Seconded by: J. Nowak
 (Carried)

THAT the agenda for the General Membership/Election of Officers Meeting of January 23, 2015 be approved as circulated.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

General Membership Meeting – December 12, 2014

There were no questions or comments with respect to the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of December 12, 2014.

Moved by: P. Salter
Seconded by: V. Prendergast
(Carried)

THAT the Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of December 12, 2014
be approved as circulated.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

None

8. Hearing of Delegations:

None

9. Presentations:

None

10. Correspondence:

a) Copies for members

None

b) Not copied

None

11. 1st and 2nd Reading of By-Laws:

None

12. Presentation of Reports:

a) **GM-01-15-01** Budget 2015 – Draft #2

S. Radoja conducted a PowerPoint presentation indicating that:

- Watershed issues include: rapidly growing population; extensive agriculture and climate change.
- The GRCA's proposed 2015 budget is \$29.1 million.
- The budget consists of three main categories: operating budget; capital budget and special projects.
- Staffing has increased 16% between 2003 and 2015.
- The expense budget has increased 36% during that same period.
- The watershed population has increased 22% during that same period.
- The 2015 budget is based upon a number of major assumptions which were reviewed.

- The Source Protection Plan (SPP) increment of the budget relates to the implementation phase expenses.
- The significant items affecting the proposed 2015 budget are: a general municipal levy increase of 2.5%; capital spending relating to water control structures; meeting revenue targets for parks; the SPP; Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and severe weather events.
- S. Foxtan referred to the comment that provincial funding is not guaranteed for SPP. She asked where the funds would come from. S. Radoja said that GRCA would cease doing SPP work.
- W. Wettlaufer referred to other government grants and the disparity in amounts for 2013, 2014 and 2015. He asked what these grants are and where they come from. S. Radoja said that the disparity for those years is SPP.
- B. Corbett referred to a staffing increase from 2003 and 2015 of 21. He asked what the staffing increase was between 2013 and 2014. S. Radoja said that three positions were filled mostly for special projects.
- B. Corbett asked whether the budgeted amount for EAB was for treatment or cleanup. S. Radoja said that in 2015 trees would be inventoried and some would be removed.
- B. Corbett asked that “self-generated” income be explained. S. Radoja answered that GRCA’s self-generated revenue includes parks, planning permits, hydro generation, property rentals, cottage lot rentals, nature centre programs, Burford Nursery, etc.

Resolution 1-15

Moved by: J. Jamieson

Seconded by: B. Coleman

(Carried)

THAT member municipalities be forwarded a letter advising them of the General Membership meeting to be held February 27, 2015 to approve the 2015 Budget and the municipal levy and that the most recent budget draft be forwarded with this letter.

b) **GM-01-15-02** Labour Relations – Contract Negotiations

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 2-15

Moved by: W. Stauch

Seconded by: W. Wettlaufer

(Carried)

THAT an ad hoc committee be formed called the Labour Relations Steering Committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair and one other to be named by the General membership, and the Chief Administrative Officer.

AND THAT the role of this Steering Committee will be to provide direction to the management negotiating team prior to the negotiation of a new Collective Agreement effective January 2, 2015.

c) **GM-01-15-03** Grand River Conservation Foundation Member Appointment

B. Corbett said that Paul General is very involved with Dunnville Marsh and he highly recommended his appointment as a member of the GRCF.

Resolution 3-15

Moved by: B. Corbett

Seconded by: L. Armstrong

(Carried)

THAT the following new Member be appointed to the Grand River Conservation Foundation until the next Annual General Meeting:

- Paul General

d) **GM-01-15-04** Chief Administrative Officer's Report

J. Farwell reminded the members that a Special Orientation Meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2015. He said that if there is anything that the members want staff to focus on for that meeting they should let him know.

Resolution 4-15

Moved by: B. Banbury

Seconded by: G. Gardhouse

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-04 – Chief Administrative Officer's Report be received as information.

e) **GM-01-15-05** Cash and Investments Status Report as of December 31, 2014

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 5-15

Moved by: J. Jamieson

Seconded by: W. Wettlaufer

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-05 – Cash and Investments Status Report as of December 31, 2014 be received as information.

f) **GM-01-15-06** Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 6-15

Moved by: B. Lee

Seconded by: G. Wicke

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-06 – Development, Interference with Wetlands and alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation be received as information.

g) **GM-01-15-07** Environmental Assessments

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 7-15
Moved by: B. Corbett
Seconded by: B. Coleman
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-07 – Environmental Assessments be received as information.

h) **GM-01-15-08** Fairchild Creek Subwatershed Study

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 8-15
Moved by: L. Armstrong
Seconded by: J. Nowak
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-08 – Fairchild Creek Subwatershed Study be received as information.

i) **GM-01-15-09** Grand River Conservation Authority Complimentary Membership Passes 2015

There were no questions or comments with respect to this report.

Resolution 9-15
Moved by: W. Wettlaufer
Seconded by: S. Foxton
(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-09 – Grand River Conservation Authority Complimentary Membership Passes 2015 as information.

j) **GM-01-15-10** Conservation Area Winter Programs

D. Bennett advised that:

- Belwood Lake, Laurel Creek, Shade's Mill and Pinehurst Lake Conservation areas are offering winter programs.
- Ice fishing has opened at Belwood Lake, Shade's Mill and Pin ehurst Lake.
- A free community event known as The Big Chill will be held on Family Day at Guelph Lake and Rockwood Conservation Areas.

- The winter programs generate \$80,000 to \$100,000 in revenue during an average season.
- A gradual expansion of the winter programs offered is one of the strategic objectives for enhancing park revenues.
- Expenses incurred to hold the Family Day events will be covered by the existing park operations budget.
- The public will have the opportunity to make donations to the GRCA to support GRCA projects such as the Guelph Lake Nature Centre or trail development at Rockwood.
- W. Stauch said that the events have received good press.
- C. White asked how the events are being marketed because he has not heard anything about them. D. Bennett said that advertising will be done immediately prior to the events i.e. radio and newspaper coverage.
- J. Nowak referred to ice fishing and asked whether GRCA or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests (MNR) do any field testing and does GRCA stock the lakes. D. Bennett said that Rockwood is stocked in the Spring.. He is not aware of any recent field testing that has been done.
- M. Salisbury commented that there is ice fishing on certain lakes. He said that he witnessed a large number of people ice fishing at Guelph Lake and asked whether GRCA gets any revenue from this. D. Bennett answered that GRCA does not collect fees for ice fishing at Guelph Lake and people are taking advantage of their ability to walk onto the lake.

Resolution 10-15

Moved by: L. Armstrong

Seconded by: W. Stauch

(Carried)

THAT Report GM-01-15-10 – Conservation Area Winter Programs be received as information.

k) k) GM-01-15-11 Current Watershed Conditions as of January 21, 2015.

D. Boyd indicated that:

- Precipitation to date in January, 2015 has been well below the long term average across the Grand River watershed.
- December, 2014 was a dry month with most of the watershed climate stations recording 65% or less than the long term average.
- A snowpack is starting to form in the watershed with snow on the ground since the beginning of January, 2015.
- The average air temperature in January, 2015 to date has been minus 10.9 degrees which is 2.9 degrees colder than the long term average.

- The three large reservoirs (Shand, Conestogo and Guelph) are all within their normal operating ranges for this time of year.
- Environment Canada's long range forecast for the January to March, 2015 period for southern Ontario is for normal temperatures.

B. Corbett said that February is a difficult month in the lower watershed due to ice build-up and flooding. He asked what the criteria is to call in an ice breaker. D. Boyd answered that staff view ice at the mouth of the river, review data from Environment Canada about Lake Erie, etc.

B. Coleman said there is a problem in Brantford with wells and asked where the water has gone. He also said there is no water in the wetlands. D. Boyd said the area is clay and clay has to crack to re-charge. It is his belief that due to a wetter than usual summer the clay did not crack sufficiently to permit re-charge.

13. Election of Officers

J. Mitchell invited J. Rzakki, Watershed Steward Coordinator, Conservation Ontario to assume the chair and conduct the election of officers. J. Rzakki explained the process that would be followed in the conduct of the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Nominations will be called for three times and if necessary ballots will be distributed for purposes of voting. Ballots will be collected and counted by the scrutineer. A majority vote is required for election. J. Rzakki then declared the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair vacant.

J. Rzakki called for a motion to appoint a scrutineer.

Resolution 11-15
 Moved by: S. Foxton
 Seconded by: S. Shantz
 (Carried)

THAT S. Kraemer be appointed the scrutineer for purposes of this election.

Election of Chair

J. Rzakki advised the members that a nomination does not require a seconder and called for nominations for the position of Chair from the floor.

L. Armstrong nominated J. Mitchell. J. Mitchell accepted the nomination. J. Rzakki called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair. No further nominations being forthcoming, J. Rzakki called for a motion that nominations for the position of Chair of Grand River Conservation Authority be closed.

Resolution 12-15
 Moved by: W. Stauch
 Seconded by: L. Armstrong
 (Carried)

THAT nominations for the position of Chair of Grand River Conservation Authority be closed.

J. Rzadki declared J. Mitchell Chair of Grand River Conservation Authority for 2015 by acclamation.

Election of Vice-Chair

J. Rzadki called for nominations for the position of Vice-chair from the floor.

B. Coleman nominated V. Prendergast. V. Prendergast accepted the nomination.

W. Wettlaufer nominated H. Jowett. J. Rzadki confirmed that although H. Jowett was absent from the meeting, she had provided written confirmation that she would accept the nomination for the position of Vice-chair.

J. Rzadki called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. No further nominations being forthcoming, she called for a motion that nominations for the position of Vice-chair of Grand River Conservation Authority be closed.

Resolution 13-15

Moved by: B. Lee

Seconded by: G. Wicke

(Carried)

THAT nominations for the position of Vice-chair of Grand River Conservation Authority be closed.

S. Kraemer handed out ballots to the members. She subsequently collected the marked ballots and left the room to count them. The Secretary-Treasurer displayed the names of the nominees on a white board. S. Kraemer returned to the meeting and provided the results to J. Rzadki who announced that the successful candidate for Vice-chair of Grand River Conservation Authority is V. Prendergast by a vote of 18 to 3. She provided the election results in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer who marked them on the white board.

V. Prendergast thanked the members and said he is looking forward to the next year.

Resolution 14-15

Moved by: J. Jamieson

Seconded by: L. Armstrong

(Carried)

THAT the ballots used in the election for the position of Vice-chair of Grand River Conservation Authority be destroyed.

J. Mitchell resumed the chair. She thanked the members for their continued support. She said that in 2015 GRCA will host the Biennial Tour, together with events in celebration of the GRCA's 50th anniversary. She said funding will be challenging and advised the new members that some of the members met with various MPPs at the

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in 2014. She also said that she will be happy to continue to lobby the province through Conservation Ontario.

14. Committee of the Whole:

None

15. General Business:

J. Mitchell reminded the members that another member has to be appointed to the Labour Relations Steering Committee. S. Foxtan expressed an interest in participating in that committee.

Resolution 14-15
Moved by: L. Armstrong
Seconded by: B.Coleman
(Carried)

THAT S. Foxtan be appointed to Grand River Conservation Authority's Labour Relations Steering Committee.

16. 3rd Reading of By-Laws:

None

17. Other Business:

- a) G. Wicke noted that the Audit Committee is scheduled to meet on February 18, 2015. He asked who sat on that committee. K. Murch said that the members of the Audit Committee were appointed at the Annual General Meeting in 2014., to remain in place until the next Annual General Meeting.
- b) B. Corbett asked what the plans are for succession planning for the members. J. Mitchell confirmed that, in keeping with the limits of the Bylaw, 2015 will be her last year as Chair and V. Prendergast's last year as Vice-chair.

18. Closed Meeting: (motion required pursuant to Section 36 of By-Law 1-2014)

19. Next Meetings:

- Special Orientation Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.
Auditorium/Boardroom, Administration Centre, Cambridge
- Audit Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 –Following Special Orientation Meeting
Conference Room, Administration Centre, Cambridge

- Annual General Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.
Auditorium/Boardroom, Administration Centre, Cambridge

20. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

21. Grand River Source Protection Authority Meeting (if required)

Chair

Secretary-Treasurer