

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**PEDC 1-2021
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Huson (Committee Chair)
Present in the
Council Chamber:

Committee Members Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Darte
Present via Video (Committee Vice-Chair), Easton, Fertich, Foster, Greenwood,
Conference: Heit, Junkin, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Ugulini, Witteveen,
 Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Bellows

Staff Present in the D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development
Council Chamber: Services, L. Glynn, Technology Support Analyst, A.-M. Norio,
 Regional Clerk, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development,
 R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Staff Present via E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, I. Banach, Acting
Video Conference: Director, Community & Long Range Planning, P. Busnello,
 Manager, Development Planning, M. Evelyn, Legislative
 Coordinator, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, P.
 Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development
 Engineering, K. McCauley, Acting Manager, Long Range
 Planning, K. Young, Planner, B. Zvaniga, Interim
 Commissioner, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

Moved by Councillor Fertich
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Councillor Huson **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

Moved by Councillor Greenwood
Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Councillor Dart **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair

The Regional Clerk called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Junkin

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022), **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

Voting of hands resulted in the following:

Huson = 10

Darte = 2

Based on the result of the vote, Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, announced that Councillor Huson would be Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Junkin

That Councillor Darte **BE NOMINATED** as Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022).

3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Public Works Committee. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee for a two-year term (2021-2022), **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Vice-Chair, Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, announced that Councillor Darte would be the Planning and Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair for a two-year term (2021-2022).

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Huson assumed the Chair.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Supporting a New Niagara Region Official Plan

Rob Horne, Senior Advisor, Overlap Associates, provided information respecting Supporting a New Niagara Region Official Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- 3 Approaches to Good Planning
 - Macro Approach
 - The "Principled" Approach
 - The Compatible (Micro) Approach
- Next Steps

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting consultation with Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), Chambers of Commerce, and environmental groups across the Region regarding development of the new Niagara Region Official Plan. Councillor Redekop.

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment 24 – Northwest Welland Urban Boundary Expansion Request (Report PDS 3-2020 (Agenda Item 6.2))

5.1.1 Grant Munday, Interim Director of Development & Building Services, and Travers Fitzpatrick, General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services, City of Welland

Grant Munday, Interim Director of Development & Building Services, and Travers Fitzpatrick, General Manager, Infrastructure & Development Services, City of Welland, appeared before the committee in support of Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and requested that the City of Welland secondary plan be exempt from requiring Regional approval.

6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 PDS 6-2021

Climate Change Work Program Update

Katie Young, Planner, provided information respecting Climate Change Work Program Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Previous Approved Climate Change Work Program
- Provincial Policy and Legislation: A Changing Landscape (2017-2020)
- Corporate Climate Change Offices: Regional and Single Tier Municipalities
- Updating the Climate Change Work Program
- 3 Pillars
- Ontario Climate Consortium
- Development of a Regional Greening Initiative

Moved by Councillor Redekop
Seconded by Councillor Sendzik

That Report PDS 6-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Climate Change Work Program Update, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an update to the Climate Change Work Program for the Niagara Official Plan **BE ENDORSED**;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to initiate research into a greening initiative for Niagara; and
3. That Council **BE INFORMED** of the Commissioner's delegated authority to enter into a contract with the Ontario Climate Consortium to complete climate modeling and projections for Niagara.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the Niagara Region and Local Area Municipalities taking a coordinated approach in developing a climate change work program. Councillor Sendzik.

6.2 PDS 3-2021

Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment 24 – Northwest Welland Urban Boundary Expansion Request

Kirsten McCauley, Acting Manager, Long Range Planning, provided information respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment 24 – Northwest Welland Urban Boundary Expansion Request. Topics of the presentation included:

- Purpose of Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment (LOPA) 24
- Northwest Welland Expansion
- ROPA 18
- Modifications to LOPA 24
- Pre-Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) Urban Boundary Expansion
- Supporting Information
- Recommendation for ROPA 18 and LOPA 24

Moved by Councillor Darte
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report PDS 3-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment 24 – Northwest Welland Urban Boundary Expansion Request, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 18 – Northwest Welland Urban Area Boundary Expansion **BE APPROVED** (attached as Appendix 2 to Report PDS 3-2021);
2. That Local Official Plan Amendment No. 24 to the City of Welland Official Plan **BE APPROVED** as modified (Attached as Appendix 3 to Report PDS 3-2021);
3. That all parties **BE NOTIFIED** of Regional Council's decision in accordance with *Planning Act, 1990* requirements;
4. That staff **ISSUE** a declaration of final approval for Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment No. 24, 20 days after notice of Council's decision has been given, provided that no appeals have been filed against the decision, in accordance with *Planning Act, 1990* requirements; and
5. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Welland.

Moved by Councillor Campion
Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That if there are no appeals to the approvals of ROPA No. 18 and LOPA No. 24, that the implementing Secondary Plan, City of Welland OPA #29 **BE EXEMPTED** from Regional Approval and that the City of Welland re-authorize/re-approve OPA #29.

Recorded vote:

Yes (3): Campion, Redekop, Sendzik.

No: (13): Bradley, Butters, Bylsma, Darte, Fertich, Foster, Heit, Huson, Junkin, Rigby, Ugulini, Witteveen, Zalepa.

Defeated

Committee Chair Huson called the vote on the motion as follows:

That Report PDS 3-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment 24 – Northwest Welland Urban Boundary Expansion Request, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 18 – Northwest Welland Urban Area Boundary Expansion **BE APPROVED** (attached as Appendix 2 to Report PDS 3-2021);
2. That Local Official Plan Amendment No. 24 to the City of Welland Official Plan **BE APPROVED** as modified (Attached as Appendix 3 to Report PDS 3-2021);
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4. That staff **ISSUE** a declaration of final approval for Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 18 and Local Official Plan Amendment No. 24, 20 days after notice of Council's decision has been given, provided that no appeals have been filed against the decision, in accordance with Planning Act, 1990 requirements; and
5. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Welland.

Carried

6.3 ED 2-2021

Tourism Adaption and Recovery Fund

Moved by Councillor Witteveen

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report ED 2-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Tourism Adaption and Recovery Fund, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Director of Economic Development **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute the necessary documentation to provide funding to successful applicants to the Tourism Adaption and Recovery Fund, granted by Fed Dev Ontario, and to administer the program funds.

Carried

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

ED 1-2021

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development

PDS-C 2-2021

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development Services

PDS-C 3-2021

Treed Areas Estimation in Niagara Region

PDS-C 1-2021

Update on Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) Decision, Regional Official Plan Amendment 3-2013, Hamlet Policies - Settlement of Wellandport/Township of Wainfleet Hamlets Mapping

Carried

Report PDS 4-2021 was considered separately.

7.3 PDS 4-2021

Niagara Official Plan - Steps and Directions Moving Forward

Dave Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, provided information respecting Niagara Official Plan - Steps and Directions Moving Forward. Topics of the presentation included:

- Niagara Official Plan Consultation, Work Program and Reports Over Q1 and Q2 of 2021
- Conformity and Limits of an Official Plan
- Emerging Themes
- Workshops - Regional and Local Councils
- Upcoming Reporting to Planning and Economic Development Committee

Moved by Councillor Campion
Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Report PDS 4-2021, dated January 13, 2021, respecting Niagara Official Plan – Steps and Directions Moving Forward, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

At this point in the meeting Vice-Chair Darte assumed the Chair.

8.1 Economic Development Local Business Event

Moved by Councillor Huson
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has created recessionary pressures on communities across Canada and internationally;

WHEREAS local businesses have been negatively impacted and employment opportunities in Niagara have significantly declined as a direct result of the pandemic, especially with regard to the tourism, accommodation, and retail trade sectors;

WHEREAS local businesses have needed to adapt or diversify their web-based presence to support business activities during the pandemic;

WHEREAS research shows that job loss and reduced labour market opportunities can create an economic landscape that can lead to greater self-employment opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Niagara Region Economic Development Department **INITIATE** an event in collaboration with local business support organizations and municipal partners to:

1. Provide an online forum to support and promote online business opportunities to local businesses;
2. Promote local grants and other funding available for business and start up opportunities; and
3. Connect existing businesses or new entrants to municipal partners and business support services.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Vice-Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has created recessionary pressures on communities across Canada and internationally;

WHEREAS local businesses have been negatively impacted and employment opportunities in Niagara have significantly declined as a direct result of the pandemic, especially with regard to the tourism, accommodation, **hospitality**, and retail trade sectors;

WHEREAS local businesses have needed to adapt or diversify their web-based presence to support business activities during the pandemic;

WHEREAS research shows that job loss and reduced labour market opportunities can create an economic landscape that can lead to greater self-employment opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Niagara Region Economic Development Department **INITIATE** an event in collaboration with local business support organizations and municipal partners to:
2. Provide an online forum to support and promote online business opportunities to local businesses;
3. Promote local grants and other funding available for business and start up opportunities; and
4. Connect existing businesses or new entrants to municipal partners and business support services.

Vice-Chair Darté called the vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it,

Carried

At this point in the meeting Chair Huson assumed the Chair.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Mark Evely
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk