

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

PEDC 3-2023

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Council Chamber / Video Conference

**Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair), Davies (Committee Vice Chair), Ganann, Huson (Committee Chair), Ip, Junkin (via Video Conference), Morocco, Rigby, Seaborn, Sorrento, Ugolini, Witteveen

Other Councillors: Craitor (via Video Conference)

Absent/Regrets: Campion, Foster, Jordan, Kaiser, Redekop, Steele

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, M. Bannerman, Program Manager, Grants & Incentives, D. Barnhart, Chief of Staff (via Video Conference), P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning (via Video Conference), J. Federici, Planner, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support (via Video Conference), S. Norman, Senior Planner, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, G. Scharback, Deputy Regional Clerk (via Video Conference), M. Sergi, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, R. Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING UNDER THE PLANNING ACT**

At 1:01 p.m. Committee Chair Huson called the Statutory Public Meeting under the *Planning Act* to order and stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with Section 17 of the *Planning Act*.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive comments and correspondence from the public regarding a Regional Official Plan Amendment application regarding Port Colborne Quarry Pit 3 Expansion.

The proposed amendment affects lands which are immediately to the east of the existing Port Colborne quarry operation. The total area proposed to be licensed and of the proposed regional official plan amendment is 80.3 hectares.

The Committee Chair stated that any person who wished to make representation on the proposed amendment would be given an opportunity to do so. She additionally advised that written submissions may be submitted to the Clerk's Office to be placed on a public agenda and become part of the public record. Personal information will be collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record and may be available to the general public pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Act*, and any other relevant Acts.

3.1 Presentation

3.1.1 Regional Official Plan Amendment Application

Sean Norman, Senior Planner, provided information respecting Overview of the Application - Regional Official Plan Amendment - Port Colborne Quarries, Proposed Expansion of Pit 3 (Application No. ROPA-21-0001). Topics of the presentation included:

- Supporting Information
- Timeline of ROPA Application
- Concurrent Applications
- Approval Process
- Summary of Next Steps

3.2 Speakers to the Matter

3.2.1 David Sisco, Senior Planner, IBI Group

David Sisco, Senior Planner, IBI Group, appeared on behalf of Port Colborne Quarries Inc., to provide information on the application including the proposed expansion, operation and rehabilitation plans, and project status.

3.2.2 Jack S. Hellinga, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Jack S. Hellinga, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns regarding enforcement, the need for controlled agreements and the wetlands.

3.2.3 Robert Henderson, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Robert Henderson, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns regarding the aquifer and the future of the quarry.

3.2.4 Sharon Ladd, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Sharon Ladd, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns for her property, business and the environment.

3.2.5 Kevin Ladd, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Kevin Ladd, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns regarding his property, traffic, contaminants and protection of the water source.

3.2.6 Cindy Mitchell

Cindy Mitchell, appeared on behalf of neighbours of the quarry, in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns for the environment and ecosystem, license requirements and wetland protection.

3.2.7 Harry Wells, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Harry Wells, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns for conditions for the amendment, protecting the aquifer, economic prosperity and additional options for the quarry.

3.2.8 Melissa Bigford

Melissa Bigford, Resident, City of Port Colborne, appeared in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment expressing concerns for the environment, agriculture, water quality and the aquifer.

3.3 Correspondence

3.3.1 PDS-C 4-2023

Gary Gaverluk, Vice President, The Niagara Water Protection Alliance

3.3.2 PDS-C 5-2023

Jack S. Hellinga, Resident, City of Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor Ugolini
Seconded by Councillor Davies

That the comments and correspondence items provided at the Statutory Public Meeting **BE RECEIVED** and **REFERRED** to staff for consideration in the preparation of the final report respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment Application – Port Colborne Quarries, Proposed Expansion of Pit 3.

Carried

3.4 Report (For Information Only)

3.4.1 PDS 5-2023

Regional Official Plan Amendment Application – Port Colborne Quarries, Proposed Expansion of Pit 3

Moved by Councillor Seaborn
Seconded by Councillor Ganann

That Report PDS 5-2023, dated March 8, 2022, respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment Application – Port Colborne Quarries, Proposed Expansion of Pit 3, **BE RECEIVED** for information and **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Port Colborne and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Carried

3.5 Summary and Next Steps

Sean Norman, Senior Planner, advised that all comments or correspondence received would be considered in the preparation of the final report respecting the Regional Official Plan Amendment - Port Colborne Quarries, Proposed Expansion of Pit 3.

3.6 Adjournment of the Statutory Public Meeting Under the Planning Act

The Committee Chair declared the Statutory Public Meeting under the *Planning Act* adjourned at 3:17 p.m. and advised that those individuals who wish to be informed of when the Region is considering a final report on this matter must inform the Regional Clerk in writing.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 PDS 7-2023

Niagara Falls 2018 Waterfront Investment Program Grant Extension

Moved by Councillor Morocco

Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That Report PDS 7-2023, dated March 8, 2023, respecting Niagara Falls 2018 Waterfront Investment Program Grant Extension, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an extension of the 2018 Waterfront Investment Program grant for the City of Niagara Falls' Millennium Trail Section 5 through December 31, 2024 **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That Report PDS 7-2023 **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of Niagara Falls

Moved by Councillor Ip

Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

1. That an extension of the 2018 Waterfront Investment Program grant for the City of Niagara Falls' Millennium Trail Section 5 through December 31, 2024 **BE APPROVED after which time the Regional funding allocated for the grant would be repurposed.**

Carried

The Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it,

Carried

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **PDS 6-2023**

2022 Niagara Region Employment Inventory Result

John Federici, Planner, and Blake Landry, Manager, Economic Research & Analysis Manager, provided information respecting 2022 Niagara Region Employment Inventory Result. Topics of the presentation included:

- Employment Inventory Overview
- History and Reporting Gap
- Partnerships and Collaboration 2022
- 2022 Inventory Completion Rate
- 5-Year Completion Rate Trend and Business Counts
- Number of Businesses/jobs by NAICS Sector
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Engaging the Business Community
- Project Page and Open Data

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Morocco

That Report PDS 6-2023, dated March 8, 2023, respecting 2022 Niagara Region Employment Inventory Results, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, Local Economic Development Offices, Workforce Collective, the Niagara Chambers of Commerce and Brock University.

Carried

7.2 **PDS-C 3-2023**

Collaboration to Support Industrial Development in Fort Erie

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by Councillor Ganann

That Report PDS-C 3-2023, dated March 8, 2023, respecting Collaboration to Support Industrial Development in Fort Erie, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Niagara Escarpment Commission Appointment

Councillor Witteveen advised committee that he was once again appointed as Niagara Regional Council's representative for the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk