

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

**PEDC 2-2020
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
Council Chamber
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Darté (Committee Vice-Chair), Easton, Foster, Greenwood, Heit, Huson (Committee Chair), Junkin, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Ugulini, Witteveen, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Fertich

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, I. Banach, Manager, Long Range Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning, M. Evelyn, Legislative Coordinator, D. Giles, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, R. Mostacci, Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, S. Norman, Senior Planner, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, H. Talbot, Consultant, Financial and Special Projects, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, J. Whittard, Manager, Environmental Planning

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. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PDS 2-2020

Value Added and Winery Policies in the Niagara Escarpment Plan

Graham Hendren and Dana Anderson, Planner, MHBC Planning, provided information respecting Value Added and Winery Policies in the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Regional Economic Context
- Legislative and Policy Context
 - Evolution of Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) Policy Scope
 - Difference Among Policies
- Case Study Review
 - Comparison of Permitted Uses
- Best Practices Review
- Analysis
 - Recommendations

Moved by Councillor Bylsma

Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report PDS 2-2020, dated February 12, 2020, respecting Value Added and Winery Policies in the Niagara Escarpment Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to initiate the amendment process to the Niagara Escarpment Plan, aimed at creating a consistent provincial policy and regulatory regime for agricultural based businesses in Niagara; and
2. That Report PDS 2-2020 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Craft Wineries/Wine Council of Ontario, Grape Growers of Ontario, Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, Town of Niagara on the Lake, Town of Pelham, City of St. Catharines, City of Thorold and the City of Niagara Falls.

Moved by Councillor Butters

Seconded by Councillor Ugolini

That Report PDS 2-2020 **BE REFERRED** to staff to further address and clarify the concerns raised with the proposed policies.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide Committee members with a copy of Report PDS 1-2018 respecting Niagara Escarpment Plan Agriculture Policies. Councillor Darte.

Scheduled a roundtable discussion with stakeholders to provide input on the proposed policies. Councillor Darte.

5.2 ED 2-2020

Brock University LINC

Moved by Councillor Ugolini

Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report ED 2-2020, dated February 12, 2020, respecting Brock University LINC, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Council **APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE** the Brock University LINC (Learning, Innovation, Networking, and Collaborations) funding request subject to 2023 Levy Budget deliberations and in accordance with the terms described in this report.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Campion

Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

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

PDS-C 1-2020

Public Realm Investment Program 2020 Launch

PDS 6-2020

City of Welland Application for Regional Official Plan Amendment

Carried

Report PDS 3-2020 was considered separately.

6.2 PDS 3-2020
Ecological Land Classification Mapping Update

Moved by Councillor Zalepa
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Report PDS 3-2020, dated February 12, 2020, respecting Ecological Land Classification Mapping Update, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

Carried

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Riverfront Community Plan

Regional Chair Bradley requested information regarding Niagara Region's role with respect to City of Niagara Falls Official Plan Amendment (OPA)128 (Riverfront Community Plan) due to the number of emails that have been received by Regional Councillors. Diana Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, advised that the matter was addressed by way of an appeal to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT). The LPAT turned down the appeal. The LPAT was asked to undertake a further review of their decision based on allegations that Niagara Region did not see or address a letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry respecting this development. Ms. Morreale noted that staff did address the letter and there were discussions between the Ministry, the Region and the City of Niagara Falls. She noted that some policies have been included in the Regional Official Plan Amendment that included putting holding zones on parts of this development. She advised that it was important to note that anyone can make an appeal to the LPAT when an Official Plan Amendment is approved, including government agencies, and the Ministry was aware of the City of Niagara Falls decision and did not appeal it.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Mark Evely
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk