

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

**PEDC 3-2020  
Wednesday, March 11, 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, Fertich, Foster, Greenwood, Huson (Committee Chair), Junkin, Rigby, Ugolini, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Bellows, Heit, Redekop, Sendzik, Witteveen

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning, M. Casciani, Senior Planner, M. Evely, Legislative Coordinator, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, V. Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, M. Murphy, Associate Director, Budget Planning and Strategy, S. Norman, Senior Planner, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Selig, GO Implementation Project Planning Lead, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Lake Ontario Express Inc.**

Bruno Caciagli, President, Lake Ontario Express Inc., provided information respecting Lake Ontario Express Inc. Topics of the presentation included:

- Our Strategy
- Timetable
- Background
- Benefits
- The Water Link Needs
- Determining Daily Total Demand
- Study: Conditions on Lake Ontario

Moved by Councillor Zalepa  
Seconded by Councillor Darte

That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the City of Toronto requesting a meeting with Mayor John Tory to express support of a dedicated dock in the Inner Harbour to support the Lake Ontario Express project; and

That staff **PROVIDE** an update on the project as it moves forward including coordination with Metrolinx and Niagara Regional Transit.

**Carried**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 PDS 7-2020  
Cannabis Workshop Summary

Moved by Councillor Zalepa  
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report PDS 7-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Cannabis Workshop Summary, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the letter to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (attached as Appendix 2 of Report PDS 7-2020);
2. That staff **CIRCULATE** this letter to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and
3. That staff **CIRCULATE** a copy of Report PDS 7-2020 to the local area municipalities.

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

2. That staff **CIRCULATE** this letter to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, ***Ministry of Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all local Members of Parliament (MPs).***

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

That Report PDS 7-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Cannabis Workshop Summary, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the letter to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (attached as Appendix 2 of Report PDS 7-2020);
2. That staff **CIRCULATE** this letter to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Health, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all local Members of Parliament (MPs); and
3. That staff **CIRCULATE** a copy of Report PDS 7-2020 to the Local Area Municipalities.

**Carried**

## **6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **6.1 PDS 4-2020**

Development Applications Monitoring Report - 2019 Year End

Aimee Alderman, Development Planner, provided information respecting Development Applications Monitoring Report - 2019 Year End. Topics of the presentation included:

- Regional Development Planning Context
- Development Applications Monitoring Report
  - Total Applications (2013-2019)
  - Total Applications by Type (2019)
  - Total Applications by Municipality (2019)
  - Preconsultation Meetings (2013-2019)
  - Preconsultation Meetings by Municipality (2019)
  - Regional Review Fees Collected (2013-2019)
- 2019 Development Planning Key Facts

Moved by Councillor Bylsma  
Seconded by Councillor Ugulini

That Report PDS 4-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Development Applications Monitoring Report - 2019 Year End, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Home Builders Association, Niagara Industrial Association, local Chambers of Commerce and School Boards.

**Carried**

6.2 PDS 5-2020

Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results Report

John Docker, Planner, and Darcy Persad, Intern, Inventory Data, provided information respecting Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results Report. Topics of the presentation included:

- 2019 Employment Inventory Rate
- Distribution of Jobs and Businesses by Municipality
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Preferred Recruitment Methods
- Engaging the Business Community
- Next Steps

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Zalepa

That Report PDS 5-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, Local Economic Development Offices, Niagara Workforce Planning Board and the Niagara Chambers of Commerce.

**Carried**

6.3 PDS 9-2020

Niagara Official Plan - Consultation Details and Revised Framework

David Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, Karen Costantini, Planning Analyst, Regional Official Plan, and Lindsey Savage, Senior Planner, Official Plan, provided information respecting Niagara Official Plan - Consultation Details and Revised Framework. Topics of the presentation included:

- Summary of Engagement to Date
- Digital Communication and Engagement Techniques
- Refinements Consultation Timeline
- Making our Mark Branding

Moved by Councillor Bylsma

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Report PDS 9-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Niagara Official Plan - Consultation Details & Revised Framework, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

**Carried**

6.4 PDS 8-2020

Overview of Regional Involvement in Port Colborne Quarry Proposal

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report PDS 8-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Overview of Regional Involvement in Port Colborne Quarry Proposal, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

6.5 PDS 10-2020

Niagara Falls GO Station Area Zoning Update

Moved by Councillor Rigby

Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report PDS 10-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Niagara Falls GO Station Area Zoning Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

6.6 PDS 11-2020

Background of Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake New Adopted Official Plan

Moved by Councillor Ugolini

Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Report PDS 11-2020, dated March 11, 2020, respecting Background of Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake New Adopted Official Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, prescribed agencies and interested parties.

**Carried**

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Regional Site Alteration By-law

Councillor Butters enquired if there is a Regional site alteration by-law. Phill Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, advised that the Region does not have a site alteration by-law, as this is a local area municipality function and each municipality has their own by-law. He noted that the issue of site alteration is frequently raised at the Chief Building Officials meetings and is one that they are very concerned about.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Darte assumed the Chair.

7.2 Economic Development Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Councillor Huson  
Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

WHEREAS the existing MOU between the Niagara Region and the local area municipalities was signed in 2012 and there is a need to renew this agreement;

WHEREAS the Niagara Region is currently conducting outreach with the local area municipalities to inform a 10 year strategic plan;

WHEREAS there is a current opportunity to reflect upon, re-evaluate, and renew the economic development relationship between the Region and the local area municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to gather feedback from the local area municipalities and the local economic development officers to explore:
  - a. what is currently working well with the current model;
  - b. where there is room for improvement;
  - c. what resources may be needed to make the economic development relationship more effective and of greater impact in Niagara;
2. That staff **BE DIRECTED** to prepare a report summarizing their findings and develop a new draft Memorandum of Understanding for consideration by Niagara's twelve municipalities; and
3. That this report **BE PROVIDED** at the September Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting for discussion.

**Carried**

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

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Councillor Huson  
Committee Chair

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Mark Evely  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk