

Wednesday, October 9, 1991

Staff recommendation ignored on dealership issue

Halton Hills General Committee decided Monday to ignore a staff recommendation and oppose the construction of a farm implement dealership and a garden centre at the Tenth Line and Regional Road 23.

The decision won't become final until the issue goes before Town Council this Monday. General Committee is comprised of Town councillors.

Town Councillor Joe Hewitt said the application should be opposed because the farm implement dealership would only be servicing the residential community. This type of dealership should only be permitted in the rural area if it services the farming community. To do otherwise "flies in the face" of the intent of the Town's Official Plan, he said.

Mayor Russ Miller said he opposed the application because it didn't make sense to approve a farm implement dealership when two similar type businesses located in the rural area have gone bankrupt.

According to a staff report, the application should have been recommended for approval because the proposal satisfies the intent and purpose of the Regional and Town Official Plans.

No decision

After hearing conflicting reasons for and against the Town closing St. Helena Road near Speyside, General Committee directed staff Monday to further investigate what should happen to the road.

St. Helena Road resident Michael Kirby was one of the people appearing before General Committee, who supports the road closure. He told committee members the road



is a playground for dirt bikers and vandals. "I fear for my children," said Mr. Kirby.

He urged committee members to close the road to stop people from misusing it. He then went on to say closing the road would not prevent hikers and environmentalists from gaining access to the road to explore the wooded area.

Opposing the road closure, among others, was area land owner John Yaremko who said St. Helena Road is the only viable road he can use to gain access to his property by car. If the road closure went ahead, then his property would be effectively land-locked.

Committee members directed staff to determine if a gate would be a viable compromise between leaving the roadway open or closing it.

Area property owner Dana Hewson said the gate isn't a viable option because vandals would find a way to break it down.

Legion request

Acton Royal Canadian Legion informed Town General Committee

Monday, during a public meeting, it wants to build 60 single family residential lots and a seniors' apartment building to be comprised of 57 units on Legion property at Mill Street and Cobblehill Road in Acton.

Legion representative Bruce Donaldson told committee members the proposal "reconfirms the Legion's commitment to its members and the community."

The residential lots would be for housing to serve moderate to low income earners, said Mr. Donaldson.

Area resident Bill Nellis expressed opposition to the project saying the proposed housing density was too great for the surrounding area.

Another property owner, Brian Nellis, opposed the project, saying he didn't get proper notification concerning the date of the public meeting.

Town staff will now write a report on the proposal, incorporating comments made during the public meeting and then bring it before Town Council for final approval.

Bike path proposal

Town Engineer Bob Austin told the General Committee, staff is now considering installing a bicycle path along Guelph Street for 1993 as part of the Guelph Street widening project scheduled for the same year.

The bicycle path project will cost between \$26,000 and \$58,000, according to a staff report.

Objection raised

General Committee learned Monday Mississauga resident Debbie Garrett, who is planning to move to Halton Hills, objects to a Town

bylaw permitting 106 homes to be built just west of Moore Park on Trafalgar Road in Georgetown.

Committee members recommended Town staff challenge the objection at the Ontario Municipal Board.

Town Planner Bruce MacLean said the hearing wouldn't go ahead for another year. In the meantime, staff will attempt to resolve objections raised by Ms. Garrett in or-

der to avoid going to the hearing, said Mr. MacLean.

Santa Claus Parade

Town General Committee gave the go ahead Monday for the Acton Fire Fighters Annual Santa Claus Parade in Acton on Nov. 16.

The parade starts at 1pm along Acton Boulevard, travels through the community and ends on Willow Street at 2:30pm.

Region Briefs

Halton forest area needs protection

Halton Region Conservation Authority (HRCA), instead of the province's Ministry of Natural Resources, should manage Halton Region's 1,500 acres of forest area, Regional staff agreed Wednesday at a Planning and Public Works Committee meeting.

Halton Planner Ho Wong made this comment in response to Milton Regional Councillor, Bill Johnson's claim that organizational changes at the MNR will hamper the ministry's ability to oversee the forest area.

As a North-Halton based Regional Councillor, Mr. Johnson is especially concerned about ensuring proper management of Halton's forest area since most of it is located in Milton and Halton Hills.

The MNR office that currently oversees Halton's forest area is located in Cambridge. However, the ministry plans to relocate this responsibility to the MNR office in Maple Ontario.

In support of HRCA taking over the Halton forest area management duties, Coun. Johnson said, "we have problems in these forests—signs torn down, trespassing, etc. When such complaints were laid in the past, (with the MNR) it meant dispatching an officer from Cambridge. Now complaints will be investigated from Maple, some considerable distance further away from Cambridge, and where there is considerably less staff to respond."

Although he supports Mr. Johnson, Mr. Wong explained the Region owes the MNR \$240,000 in management fees for overseeing the forest area.

In order to have HRCA take over from the MNR the Region would first be required to pay off the debt.

Murray Stephen, HRCA General Manager, said the authority would manage the forests free of charge and he suggested the MNR and Region could negotiate a deal concerning the outstanding loan.

Based on that information, councillors directed staff to meet with

MNR and HRCA to determine if something could be worked out.

Report's cost questioned

Despite recognizing the value of a lengthy report on Georgetown's water supply, members of Halton Planning and Public Works Committee appeared more concerned about the report's cost during a meeting Wednesday.

The report, which was requested by Oakville Regional Councillor John Graham, outlines what Regional staff has done to date to find additional water supplies for the Georgetown area.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt joined Burlington Regional Coun. Pat McLaughlin and Oakville Regional Coun. Fred Oliver in agreeing the report was valuable while at the same time questioning the cost of the report.

The report's cost was questioned on the basis that staff has previously provided several documents dealing with various aspects of finding an additional water supply in Georgetown.

Art Leitch, Halton's Public Works Commissioner, said he didn't know the report's cost. He did state it took 22 person days to complete the report.

Coun. McLaughlin estimated the report cost approximately \$4,000 in man hours.

Mr. Leitch wouldn't comment on this estimation, but at the request of committee he said he would find out the exact figure.

Coun. Oliver commented the cost, whatever it might be, had not been included in the budget.

Coun. Graham did not attend

Wednesday's meeting.

Councillors unimpressed

Halton's Planning and Public Works committee was unimpressed Wednesday when told that a portion of Highway 401 between the Region's boundaries will need to be expanded from six to eight lanes by the year 2011.

Provincial Transportation Ministry official, Bruce Dickey said the section of Highway 401 currently running through Halton handles between 70,000 and 77,000 vehicles per day, and this number is expected to climb to 160,000 by 2011.

Unimpressed with the Ministry's solution to increased traffic flows, Oakville Regional Councillor Janet Mitchell said, "I don't see any innovative thinking here. You are approaching it backwards: I'm not pleased."

Coun. Mitchell wondered why no one had suggested establishing designated public transit lanes instead of new all-purpose traffic lanes to move people.

Rash Mohammed, Halton's Planning Commissioner, assured the councillor the Region will be meeting with the Ministry to push the idea of Highway 401 public transit lanes.

Halton Hills Regional Councillor Joe Hewitt wondered if an expansion to Highway 401 in Halton Region would necessitate reconstruction of conjunction points along the highway at Trafalgar Road and Winston Churchill Boulevard.

Mr. Dickey said if the highway expansion plans are carried out, then the conjunction points in question would also have to be enlarged.

Coun. Hewitt also speculated Winston Churchill Boulevard itself would have to be widened if Highway 401 is expanded.

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