

TOWN DIGEST

PARKS BYLAW REVIEW

Clarification of Town park operating hours, where bicycles, skateboards and blades can be used, and new set fines are included in a review of the Town's Parks By-law, designed to ensure

community spaces are safe and enjoyable for residents.

Warren Harris, the Town's Manager of Parks and Open Spaces detailed comments reviewed by the public following Council's approval in June of a revised Parks bylaw, needed to update facility inventory infor-

mation, to deal with new and emerging issues and to provide enforcement measures like those in other municipal bylaws.

Harris also said he received some comments about smoking at outdoor facilities like splash pads, playgrounds and playfields. Although there are no plans for a Region-wide outdoor smoking ban, Halton encourages each municipality to enact their own smoking restriction bylaws, as has Oakville and Burlington is reviewing the issue, something Georgetown Councillor Moya Johnson supports.

Johnson suggested the Town put up signs asking people to be "considerate" when smoking, but Harris said Town signs relate to enforceable by-laws, adding staff would review the issue and report back to Council.

Harris said staff would take steps to enforce the Parks Bylaw only when there is a public com-

plaint, a threat to public safety or to protect parks and community space from the potential for property damage.

TRAIN WHISTLES SILENCED?

Noisy, disruptive train whistles may be silenced at four CN Rail level crossings in Halton Hills in response to multiple citizen noise complaints in the past several years.

A staff memo discussed at the November 18 council meeting said the Town consultant, MMM Group Limited, will do a detailed review of each crossing, along with a cost estimate for necessary upgrades, to make the case for a Transport Canada application for "cessation of train whistling" at Fourth Line and Fifth Lines between 10 and 15 Side Roads, 10 Side Road at Third Line, and Five Side Road between Third Line/Boston Church Road and Mansewood Court..

Regional/Acton Councillor Clark Somerville sought staff assurance that Transport Canada would be asked to comment on Town liability

with an anti-whistle by-law.

Regional/Ward Two Councillor Jane Fogal agreed with Councillor Somerville's "cringe" at the thought of trains not whistling, but called the noise "annoying." "There's got to be something in the middle (CN) can do - they whistle about 10 times," she said, also suggesting the Trafalgar Road/Maple Avenue crossing should be looked at because crossing barriers were recently installed there.

Ward Two Councillor Bryan Lewis asked staff to investigate why the Sixth Line/ 15 Side Road crossing was not included because there is a house nearby, and the train whistles cause horses in a field by the tracks to "take off and run big time." Mayor Rick Bonnette said the early morning GO Train is loud enough to be an "alarm clock" and asked staff to look into complaints to the Mayor's office, acknowledging that train whistles and barriers were often installed after a fatal accident at a level crossing

After the meeting,

Chris Mills, the Director of Infrastructure Services said the next step is to meet with CN and the consultant to discuss a detailed review of each crossing and recommended upgrades if the whistles were stopped. He said the crossings in question all have barriers, and the question now is if there is something else to be done to meet CN's standards to recommend to Transport Canada that the whistles be silenced at specific locations. "Quite frankly it's hard to tell at this point," Mills said on Monday.

ANOTHER APPROVAL EXTENSION

Despite almost 19 years of planning approval extensions, the owner of a proposed development property in Henderson's Corners, at Trafalgar Road and 22 Side Road, has one more year to complete the draft subdivision approval, which was set to lapse on November 30.

Last Monday, Town Council approved another extension to the deadline for the Bosnjak development, eight residential lots, a storm water management block, a block held by the owner and a proposed road, despite balking at past extensions and vowing there would be no more.

Planning consultant Glenn Wellings said they are "making progress" on the file, even if it is not as fast as he'd like, Wellings said last Monday as he requested yet another time extension to complete necessary planning permits. Councillors agreed with staff who recommended the extension based on the substantive work on the file since the last extension was approved one year ago. Despite earlier saying there would be no further deadline extension, Council gave the developer until November 30, 2014 to get draft plan of subdivision approval.

Pressed by Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson if staff thought the most recent delay was beyond the applicant's control, Planner Charlie Toman said within the past year the applicant had worked hard to get the multiple approvals required, and based on that effort and progress, staff were "comfortable" recommending a one-year extension.

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