

Terra Cotta parking issue highly tense at Caledon council meeting

By Matthew Strader
Metroland Media Group

Caledon council debated a contentious issue from Terra Cotta last month and will be left to debate safety versus history soon as they decide where and how to restrict parking on two roads in the small village.

At the council meeting, Caledon town staff recommended Caledon restrict parking on High St. and Isabella St. in Terra Cotta at all times, and that traffic bylaws be amended to make High St. an eastbound one way, and Isabella, a northbound one way.

Parking on High St. in Terra Cotta, a narrow residential road that serves a few homes and a resident-restored community centre, was the subject of a formal complaint in 2014 as well as a petition from residents who front the small street who want the town to restrict parking.

That formal complaint saw the Public Works department examine the road and surrounding conditions. Parking on High St. was restricted along its west side from King St. to a point 107 metres north. The com-

plaint stated that parking on both sides was restricting access and causing safety concerns.

As Director of Public Works David Loveridge explained, typically a municipality—and this one has a number of roads that don't meet the technical engineering standards—allows "sleeping dogs to lie" until a road such as this is brought to the attention of the corporation. Once it is, the town can be liable after occurrences on the road if its departments are made aware of the unsafe conditions. So once the complaint is made, changes may be required.

For Caledon Public Works, it is a rock and a hard place, Loveridge said, but for the community at large, the opinion was clear.

We haven't had an issue on Isabella, the parking is needed on both, please don't do this, residents told council.

"Isabella was never in the mix until the Town put it there," said Dave Rutherford, president of the Terra Cotta Community Centre. "Because they put it there, it caused this storm."

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