

Municipal Council Update

By Steve Ferguson, Councillor for South Marysburgh

The month of September has been particularly busy for council. We returned to the regular meeting schedule of five meetings a month and those were supplemented with 10 size of council town hall meetings throughout the County.

As you are probably aware, the 'Town Halls' were to provide the public with an opportunity to express their opinions about the four size of council pro-



posals, one of which is status quo. Each meeting followed a similar format and typically involved presentations by the authors of proposals; presentations by members of the public about their preferred option; and comments from the floor. Members of council attended the meetings to observe only; the meetings were to get the public's opinions, not council members'.

I attended all ten meetings and the public turnout was generally low and the duration of the meetings was about one hour each. That said, the South Marysburgh meeting on September 30th was the most well attended of all of them, was of the longest duration; and had the most comments from the audience.

I was very pleased that so many came out; thank you to all those who attended! The next step in the size of council review is a Committee of the Whole meeting on October 29th to get a report of the public survey results. The schedule for further discussion has not been decided.

Boat Ramp

The South Bay boat ramp is scheduled to be refurbished in 2016 and will involve some dredging and widening. I'll provide more details when available.

The Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) Hearings

Most residents of South Marysburgh should have received notice in the mail about the upcoming ERT hearings in Wellington concerning the White Pines Wind Project. The envelope was sent as bulk mail: If you have instructed the post office to not deliver flyers, you may not have received the notices. I will make a few copies available at the Milford Library that you may refer to.

The notices provide information about the dates of the hearings and instructions as to how you can participate. The continuation of the preliminary hearing that began on September 9th will be on October 14th. The main hearing will begin on November 2nd. Both hearings are being held at the Wellington Community Centre on Belleville St.



The ERT concerning the Ostrander Point turbine project that came to an abrupt halt on September 4th because of the revelations made by a representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources,

continues on October 27, 28 and 30th in Demorestville.

If you have any interest in protecting the south shore from industrial wind turbine development, please attend as many of these meetings as you can. It is important to demonstrate to the Tribunal in no uncertain terms the concern of South Marysburgh residents.

The Syrian Donation

Councillor Bill Roberts made a motion in council that the Municipality of Prince Edward County join 400 other Ontario municipalities and make a donation of \$100 to support Syrian refugees, the goal being to raise \$40,000. Although I do not take the spending of taxpayers' dollars lightly, I supported this worthy initiative which amounts to the sum of one-quarter of one cent per resident. It is my belief that many of you reading this would agree and would have done the same thing.

Notwithstanding the vile attacks by some of the bloggers on CountyLive - who seemingly have nothing positive to say about anything, and have everything to say about council and council decisions when they likely have never attended a meeting - you can make donations to the Syrian refugee cause online at pecsyria.org; or with cash at Scotiabank in Picton or Wellington. The account name and number are PEC Refugee Fund, number 608220008613.

As always, thank you for your continued support on this and other issues.

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