

For Immediate Release March 23, 2021

Council Connect: Highlights from the March 23, 2021 meeting of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights:

Tecumseh BIA Vacancy: Council received a report on a vacancy on the Town of Tecumseh Business Improvement Area Board of Directors. Council appointed Leo Demarce who had previously applied to be on the board when Boards and Committees were appointing members last fall.

Temporary Patios: Council acted to permit temporary patios for the hospitality sector to help facilitate COVID-19 Economic Recovery, authorizing By-Law 2021-18 setting out the process and guidelines for business owners with no fee.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is permitting hospitality businesses with a valid liquor licence to temporarily extend the physical size of their existing licensed patio or temporarily add a new licensed patio. This temporary measure will end on January 1, 2022 at 3:00 a.m. Licensed establishments must ensure they have municipal approval and meet all other applicable requirements to put these patio spaces into operation.

Taking into consideration the AGCO is once again permitting liquor sales licensees to continue to extend or add a temporary physical extension of the licensees premises for the duration of 2021, the Town's Guidelines have been reviewed for consistency with both the AGCO's conditions and the Province's COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open (Framework). The Guidelines will assist business owners to extend existing or establish new temporary patios on private and public property. The streamlined application process includes a template for a drawing of the proposed temporary patio or patio extension, an internal review process, inspection before opening and an agreement where the expanded patio encroaches onto public lands. The Guidelines are focused on maintaining public health and safety. The Town's Chief Building Official is authorized to inspect temporary patios and require adjustments to the patio in order to achieve compliance with the Guidelines.

The application and Guidelines will be available on the Town's website and provided to the Tecumseh Business Improvement Area to share with their business members. Temporary patios will be permitted to operate up to January 1, 2022.

Fire Safety Grant: Council approved an application from Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Services for provincial grant funding. On March 11, 2021, Ontario announced a one-time, Province-wide \$5 million grant to address challenges Fire Departments have with training and virtual inspections. Tecumseh was advised by the Fire Marshal that the Town was eligible to receive up to \$10,300. The grant funds are recommended for: training software to allow for in house training; fire management software to replace the existing system; and a new digital camera for the Fire Prevention Officer to use during inspections. The estimated costs for these items will use the funds fully with no additional funds required from the Town.

.../2



- 2 -

ICS Capital Works Plan: Council authorized the 2021 expenditure of \$195,000 from the Information & Communications Services (ICS) Lifecycle Reserve. The funds will go towards various annual expenses as well as upgrades to equipment, network infrastructure and software. Funds will also go towards video surveillance which has been instrumental in investigations related to vandalism and theft at Town facilities.

Banner Sponsorship: Council approved new five-year banner sponsorship agreements with both the Tecumseh Recreation Soccer Club and the Tecumseh Soccer Club. Previously, the two groups operated under the Tecumseh Soccer Club title. The organization split into two groups in 2020 to become “Tecumseh Recreation Soccer Club” (recreational house league group) and “Tecumseh Soccer Club (travel team). The Town has had a banner sponsorship agreement with the original group since 2016 and this decision will renew the arrangement with individual agreements for each soccer group. The Tecumseh Soccer Club will also be permitted to use Buster Reaume Park as their “home field” and place a storage shed on the lands.

Essex Power, Youth in Community Fund: Council received a report on the annual Youth in Community Fund sponsored by Essex Power. Due to the pandemic last year, there was a surplus of \$6,700 in 2020 due to under-utilization. Combined with the annual allotment of \$10,000, the Town has \$16,700 available for 2021. Tecumseh Parks and Recreation is exploring several options to provide opportunities to participate in recreational programs this year in consideration of public health guidelines. These funds will support many initiatives in this eighth year of funding. Details on summer programming will be provided when known.

Amendment to Sandwich South Zoning By-Law 85-18: Council authorized the holding of a Public Meeting on April 27 for the amendment to the Sandwich South Zoning By-Law 85-18. The amendment would require a zoning by-law amendment to establish new cannabis greenhouse operations in the Agricultural (A) Zone, rather than permitting them as of right. Additionally, Council agreed in concept to a by-law to make development of new mushroom, greenhouse and cannabis greenhouse operations subject to site plan control in accordance with Section 10.4.3 of the Official Plan. A by-law will be prepared for adoption at the next regular meeting of Council. The agenda and livestream information will be posted on Thursday, April 22.

Zoning By-Law Amendment-Dana Azar: Council authorized the holding of a public meeting on April 27 for an amendment to the Sandwich South Zoning By-Law 85-18 to rezone a 0.47 hectare property on the west side of the 11th Concession Road, south of County Road 42 from “Agricultural Zone (A)” to a site specific “Residential Zone 1 (R1-19)”. The rezoning will facilitate the creation of three new residential lots and the future construction of three single-unit dwellings.

A Public Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to hear public comment on the application for an Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment for a proposed residential condominium development on a parcel of land located at 12433 Dillon Drive. The meeting will be livestreamed and the agenda can be viewed at <http://www.tecumseh.ca/12433DillonDrive>.

A Special Meeting of Council will be held Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. on the proposed Riverside Drive Trail. A report and presentation from Administration and Bezaire Partners and Dillon Consulting Limited will be provided. The meeting will be livestreamed and the agenda will be available on March 25, 2021.

.../3



- 3 -

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at www.tecumseh.ca. The agenda for the Regular meeting will be made available on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at www.tecumseh.ca, Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook (www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh).

-30-

Media Contact:

Lesley Reeves, Manager Strategic Initiatives, 519-735-2184 Ext. 150

