

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 2020**

**PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT (Z1/20)
HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENT**

A Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Administration Centre, Township of Essa.

In attendance: Mayor Sandie Macdonald
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith
Councillor Keith White
Councillor Henry Sander
Councillor Ron Henderson

Staff in attendance: C. Healey-Dowdall, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Powell, Manager of Planning and Development
J. Coleman, Manager of Parks and Recreation
C. Ross Tustin, Fire Chief
D. Burgin, Deputy Fire Chief
L. Lehr, Clerk

The Mayor opened the meeting by stating the purpose of the Public Meeting is to review proposed Housekeeping Amendments to the Township of Essa's Zoning By-law 2003-50 in accordance with Section 34 of the *Planning Act*, and to hear comments and review written submissions from the public and other agencies concerning these proposed Amendments.

The Manager of Planning and Development described the Housekeeping Amendment as follows:

As part of regular Housekeeping in association with the Township's Zoning By-law, Township Staff have undertaken an inventory of properties that require an Amendment to their zoning status as indicated in the subject Zoning By-law. The nature of the Amendment is to address:

- The prohibition of a dwelling on farmlands where a surplus dwelling has been severed, due to farm consolidations, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act,
- List properties requiring zoning corrections where mislabeled, or not zoned; and
- Prohibit boat launching in Township Fishing Parks

The Manger of Planning and Development then delivered a presentation to further describe the Amendment and the affected properties in which the Amendment would apply to.

The Mayor then asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak, that speakers must state their name and address so that proper records may be kept and notice of future decisions be sent to those persons involved in the review process. Comments are to be orderly, respectful and not repetitious.

Mr. Randy Graham – 16 Cecil Street

Mr. Graham lives at the subject address and questioned whether the proposed rezoning to his property would affect his property taxes, to the Manager of Planning and Development.

A. Powell advised that the effect of this mapping Amendment would not impact property taxes at the subject address.

Ms. Maria Benjamins – 5567 9th Line

Ms. Benjamins is a member of the Township's Healthy Community Committee and expressed concerns that the prohibition of boat launches works against the principles of encouraging active transportation and trails use, hinders opportunities for tourism and the optimal utilization of parks by closing off access to rivers and watercourses. Ms. Benjamins believes that blocking off publicly accessible launching locations will encourage less safe ways of access into waterways, but it won't prevent access altogether onto this form of trail. Ms. Benjamins also questioned what the plan is for canoe/boat/kayak launching alternatives.

Mayor Macdonald responded that Staff is currently investigating other options for boat launching that will be safer at a designated location that is better regulated for this activity. The current practice is highly unsafe as there are people launching motorized boats into the waterways.

C. Healey-Dowdall noted that through the 2019 Budget Approvals, Council approved funding for the creation of a properly designed safe and accessible boat launch in the Angus Community Park. The existing launches (Don Ross/Nottawasaga Fishing Park) lead public down an unsafe slippery riverbank. The Angus Community Park was selected as a possible location because it is in keeping with further enhancing access to water travel through a safe boat launch which will meet the objectives of Council.

Mayor Macdonald noted that the public is currently using any area they want to launch water vehicles which is unsafe and that the Township needs to address this issue.

Ms. Benjamins questioned if Council would consider the creation of more than one boat launch as there is camping at Centennial Park.

Mayor Macdonald noted that the property in question is leased by the Legion.

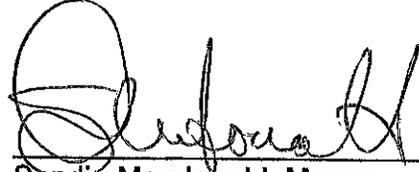
Councillor Henderson noted that boats are being put into the waterway on the 20th Sideroad, and that boats are not being launched in the river out of Centennial Park.

Council directed for this matter to be referred to the Clerk's Department for a report on a comprehensive Parks By-law addressing boat launching.

C. Healey-Dowdall emphasized that the purpose of this meeting was to listen to comments and that there will not be a decision tonight. A future report will be coming

forward; the idea of prohibiting the boat launch through a Zoning By-law Amendment will be abandoned and this matter will be discussed through the investigation of a comprehensive Parks Policy/By-law to let the public know what can and cannot be done in Township owned parks.

Mayor Macdonald thanked all those in attendance.



Sandie Macdonald, Mayor



Lisa Lehr, Clerk