
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum CDS-M01-2023 Updates to Public Consultation Plan – Minister's Zoning Order



For Consideration by Council on March 27, 2023

To: Mayor Bentley and Members of Council

From: Mike Evers, MCIP RPP, General Manager, Community & Development Services

Staff presented Report CDS-02-2023 at the March 21, 2023 Council in Committee meeting. The report introduced a multi-part consultation strategy relating to the Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) that would consist of in person, virtual and written public input opportunities. As a result of Committee's discussions, staff was directed to investigate an alternative (later) date for the in person public meeting (i.e. a time closer to the end of April vs. the staff proposed April 13th date). Staff have done so, and confirmed that the date of Thursday, April 27th is suitable for the in person public meeting. All details laid out in Report CDS-02-2023 relative to the in-person public meeting would remain unchanged – i.e. hosted at the Haldimand County Administration Building, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., speakers must register, etc. Unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will now proceed to work through all meeting logistics and public notifications.

At the March 21st meeting, Committee also discussed the idea of a 2nd public consultation session. While no formal direction was given to staff in this regard, it should be noted that Report CDS-02-2023 did recommend a second public consultation session in the form of a virtual only meeting (i.e. Zoom). This was proposed in the report to take place on Wednesday, April 19th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. It remains staff's intention to move forward with planning for this virtual meeting unless directed otherwise by Council. The virtual meeting is intended to provide an input opportunity for people who are uncomfortable speaking in front of a crowd, who may not live in the County but own property, or who may have a scheduling conflict for the in-person meeting. This forum is being provided for the public's convenience. All members of the public wishing to participate will need to register and will be provided with instructions (including Zoom link details) once they are finalized.

As noted in the Report CDS-02-2023, staff believe that the business around this matter can be fully dealt with through the in person and virtual meetings, plus the option to submit written comments. If Council feels a second in person (or virtual) meeting is necessary, the earliest that could take place is likely the middle of May.

Lastly, it is important to provide clarity on the intent of the meeting(s). At the March 21st CIC, it was noted by a member of Council that the expectation was that the developer would be in attendance to make a presentation and respond to questions. That is not the expectation of staff in setting up this consultation. Council has already received the information from Empire and has made a decision on the MZO matter. The supporting documentation along with a FAQ document is available on the County's website so that delegations can review the resource material. The purpose of the consultation is to receive community input so that Council can determine whether Council's previous motion in support of a MZO should be revisited or not. As such, the objective of these consultations should be to hear the views of members of the public and then use that input to inform Council's next steps relative to the standing decision of support.

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.