

Consultation Summary Waterdown Node Secondary Plan

Event: Stakeholder Meeting #5
Waterdown Senior's Club

Location: Waterdown Senior's Centre
163 Dundas Street East, Waterdown

Date: June 3, 2019

Time: 11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Participants: 11

Event Description

The stakeholder meeting with the Waterdown Senior's Club consisted of two staff presentations: one on the Waterdown Community Node Secondary Plan study, and one on the Waterdown Village built Heritage Inventory, including how the inventory process works and the various levels of heritage recognition and protection. The presentations were followed with a discussion period where the group was asked to write down responses to discussion questions on a post-it note. The discussion questions were: "What are some of your favourite things about central Waterdown?" and "What changes would help improve this part of the community?". At the conclusion of the meeting staff reconfirmed ways that members of the community can participate and provide input to the study, including the upcoming Waterdown Ribfest event.

What We Heard

Heritage Buildings

A question was raised about identifying heritage buildings, specifically whether or not the rural areas are reviewed in the same way as the urban area. Staff advised that the City has listed, registered and designated properties in rural areas but are currently focusing on reviewing strategic areas identified as priorities or that align with other planning processes. It is the City's intent to eventually review the entire City area and have all heritage resources inventoried.

A question was asked about heritage requirements for residential homeowners who want to make changes to their properties. There was concern over potentially requiring special materials and the associated financial burden. Staff responded with examples of how staff can work with homeowners to find appropriate materials that are not excessively expensive and provided information on financial incentives for owners.

Accessibility

A comment was made that many heritage buildings as well as newer buildings in the area are not accessible for wheelchairs. The Copper Kettle building, 170 Rock Haven Lane and entrances to various commercial buildings were identified as examples of buildings that are not accessible. Accessibility should be addressed for new developments.

A question was raised about what triggers the need to meet AODA requirements. Staff advised it is typically triggered when construction or alterations occur as the Building

Department reviews the changes to ensure compliance with the building code.

Alterations and Renovations

The group raised concerns about alterations being done without a permit. Staff advised that inspections are complain-based and encouraged participants to report concerns about renovations or alterations done without a permit to the City.

The Waterdown theatre renovation was discussed. The group noted other members of the community do not like the appearance of the addition but agreed it greatly improved the accessibility of the facility. A comment was made that the interior of the theatre should be more comprehensively renovated also. Staff were unsure if the scope of the project included extensive interior renovations.

Community Improvement

Comments were made that Waterdown lacks sufficient senior housing and noted having to move out of their desired area to find appropriate housing options. The group identified that staying in the community is important to them. In addition, comments were made about the lack of access to services and shopping for seniors and a walkable senior's complex / hub within the core area was a suggested solution.

A comment was made about the appearance of water towers however other group members agreed water towers are necessary and do not mind them.

Transportation

A question was raised about the by-pass and whether it is shown on the Waterdown North Secondary Plan. Staff advised that it is shown, however it has not been fully constructed yet. The group agreed the by-pass is needed to reduce traffic congestion in the core, as the traffic volumes are having a significant impact on the historic downtown. A suggestion was made to close streets to vehicle traffic in the core, near Mill Street, for a pedestrian mall once the by-pass is completed.

A question was raised about road improvements planned for Dundas Street and their timing. Staff noted the Transportation Management Plan Study group would be able to provide an update during their consultation in the Fall.

The group felt bus service is inadequate for getting around and better service is needed. Comments were made that it is focused around providing service to the Go Station for commuters and not on seniors. The group understood the challenge with providing bus service without sufficient population density but suggested other service options and looking at new technologies, such as driverless Uber.

Mountainview Heights, south of Burke Street and the library were identified as areas of concern due to insufficient parking.