



Ward Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
S.H. Blake Memorial Auditorium

1. Neebing Ward Meeting 01-2023

Chair: Councillor Greg Johnsen

2. Resource Persons

Aaron Ward, Project Engineer - Infrastructure and Operations
Devon McCloskey, Manager - Planning Services
Decio Lopes, Senior Planner - Planning Services
Tyler Rizzuto, Community Development Lead - Stantec
Flo-Ann Track, Council & Committee Clerk

3. Attendance

There were 3 individuals in attendance, as follows: There were 3 individuals in attendance, as follows: Bruce Moratz, Gino Pradal, Councillor Kasey Etreni.

4. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair, Councillor Greg Johnsen welcomed Guests, members of Administration, individuals attending in person and those watching online and at home.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Neebing Ward meeting held on May 25, 2022, for information.

6. 2023 Infrastructure Projects

Aaron Ward, Project Engineer - Infrastructure & Operations provided a PowerPoint Presentation relative to the following Westfort Ward infrastructure projects and responded to questions.

The following Infrastructure Projects are scheduled for the 2023 construction season:

- Larden Court - storm sewer, drainage works, ditching and full pavement rehabilitation
- Riverdale Road - pavement resurfacing, from Highway 61 to the west Riverdale Road intersection and some culvert replacement work
- Loch Lomond Road - culvert replacements at various locations
- Broad Oaks Drive - culvert replacements at various locations
 - Victor Street - work previously scheduled during the 2023 construction season has been postponed as additional funding sources are being explored

7. 2023 Parks Capital Projects

Aaron Ward, Project Engineer - Infrastructure & Operations provided a PowerPoint Presentation relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

The following Parks Infrastructure Projects are scheduled for the 2023 construction season:

- North Neebing Park Trail - Phase One
 - Trail preparations work
 - Rink preparations work

Construction will occur during daylight hours between the months of May and the end of October. Residents may experience traffic disruptions, signs will be posted and notice will be given.

A constituent asked what material would be used for the trail?

Administration provided the following response:

The trail will be gravel, more specifically crusher fine material.

8. Parkdale Secondary Plan

Aaron Ward, Project Engineer - Infrastructure & Operations provided an overview relative to the above noted.

Tyler Rizzuto, Community Development Lead - Stantec Consulting provided a PowerPoint Presentation relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some items discussed were as follows:

Schedule C - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment - to be completed in 2023:

- Stakeholder engagement opportunities
 - 3 public open houses will be scheduled, date, time and location to be determined
 - public notice will be provided in advance
 - Planning Team contact information will be provided should the public wish to contact directly
 - additional public engagement opportunities will be available
 - online surveys
 - via telephone

What steps are being taken to preserve Williams Bog, a significant natural resource?

Aaron Ward provided the following information:

- Williams Bog is a provincially significant wetland area
 - wetlands are protected by the Province

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has delegated authority for reviewing any development within 120 metres of the wetland through the Lakehead Conservation Authority, and will be closely engaged through out the entire project
- various organizations have completed research, conducted several studies and has made this information available to Stantec to advise this project
- the City of Thunder Bay's Official Plan also provides a level of protection
- regulations make it very difficult to develop in and around wetland areas, requiring environmental assessments to be completed prior to development approval
- additional steps will also be taken to ensure water is not being diverted away from the wetland area

How will the route be developed: will the route be extended from Parkdale to Mapleward Road prior to service infrastructure and house development; or, will the route be developed in sections?

Aaron Ward provided the following information:

- one of the key components of the study, if it is determined that development should proceed, would include a phasing and staging plan: a) how does the infrastructure get extended, servicing and roads; b) and/or at what stage
- the study will guide how the project will proceed, and public engagement will help guide whether or not a phasing approach is used

Where will the secondary access be, and when will it be developed?

Aaron Ward provided the following information:

- direction was provided by the previous Council, to ensure that evaluating additional access to the Parkdale sub-division was included in the study
 - the study will advise where the secondary access will be developed

9. New Development - Neebing Ward

Decio Lopes, Senior Planner - Planning Services provided a PowerPoint Presentation and overview relative to the above noted and responded to questions.

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some items discussed were as follows:

- 4 active subdivisions
 - ShoreBay Estates
 - Between Highway 61 and Mountain Road
 - potentially 4 Phases - 69 lots in total
 - private septic
 - city water
 - Kettle Creek
 - South of Mountain Road east of the Tournament Centre
 - potentially 2 Phases - 61 lots
 - private septic
 - city water
 - Mount Forest 5A (registered) and 6 (to be registered)
 - East of Mount Forest Boulevard
 - 31 lots
 - private septic
 - city water
 - Lacewood North
 - Between Lacewood and Arthur Street
 - 9 lots
 - private septic
 - city water

Discussion was held relative to the above noted. Some items discussed were as follows:

Is there an approximate guideline that determines when the developer paves the roads?

Aaron Ward, Project Engineer - Infrastructure & Operations provided the following response:

- it is at the discretion of the developer
 - most recently, contractors have been applying a base layer of pavement and curbing when the majority of a development has been completed, which helps to keep the area cleaner, but adds additional cost to the developer. The final layer of pavement is applied when the development is complete

A constituent asked the following question:

Is there a plan to install sidewalks on Mountain Road?

Aaron Ward provided the following response:

- No, sidewalks are not installed in rural areas
 - there is no cost effective way to maintain sidewalks in rural areas
 - road allowances are narrower, ditches are larger
 - anything beyond widening the shoulder of Mountain Road slightly in the future, would also require greater works to be completed - In-place infrastructure, ditches, catch basins and telephone poles, would require relocation

A constituent asked the following question:

Will Highway 61 be four-laned up to Loch Lomond Road, to accommodate the additional traffic from the new developments?

- The Ministry of Transportation had started the Environmental Assessment process but the project was put on hold in 2019.
- Notice will be provided to the public and to Council, if and when the process is re-initiated

The Chair received the following question via email:

Under what conditions will Administration review traffic volume and mix on such roadways, for health and safety, and do they take steps to mitigate such threats?

Aaron Ward provided the following response:

- Traffic study on Mountain Road was completed in 2021, finding:
 - 2% - commercial traffic
 - majority of the traffic was passenger vehicles
 - average speed was 51 km/hr in 50 km/hr zone,
 - 85% of vehicles travelling over the speed limit were travelling at 65 km/hr
 - this area may warrant a mobile automated speed enforcement unit or camera enforcement unit. Various information with respect to an automated speed enforcement program, a provincial initiative, is currently being reviewed by Council

The Chair received the following question via email:

What is the guideline for the slope on 3 foot paved shoulders?

Aaron Ward, provided the following response:

- New paved shoulders or trails in general are graded to slope 2%, a fairly flat slope or cross-fall, similar to the slope roads and trails are graded, slopping down towards the ditch

10. Ward and City Issues

10.1 Snow Removal

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and shared the following, for information:

- Answers to frequently asked questions relating to snow removal can be found on the Roads and Active Transportation web page at www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-services/snow-removal.

10.2 Report A Problem

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and shared the following, for information:

- To report an issue experienced in the community, or for information relating to services the City of Thunder Bay provides, visit the Report a Problem web page at www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-services/report-a-problem.

10.3 Tax and Water Credit Programs for Low-Income Seniors and Low-Income Persons with Disabilities

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and shared the following, for information:

- Low-income seniors and low-income persons with disabilities who qualify may apply for a tax credit of \$400.00 and a water credit of \$200.00.
- In 2018, the tax credit was increased from \$200 to \$400 to assist with the cost of snow removal from the end of driveways.
- To apply, the application form can be found on the City Services web page at www.thunderbay.ca/en/city-services, under the Water and Utilities section.

10.4 Traffic Light Synchronization

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted, and shared the following, for information:

Traffic light synchronization technology in the City of Thunder Bay is dated. Council has approved funding in the 2023 Budget for new traffic control software and other related technology. Work is scheduled to begin this year, completed in phases over the next three years.

10.5 Confederation Drive Rink

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted and shared the following, for information:

At the December 5, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting a resolution was passed recommending that the Centennial Village (Confederation

Drive) and other unsupervised, unboarded ponds be discontinued effective the 2022/2023 season.

At the December 19, 2022 City Council meeting it was requested that the above noted resolution be extracted from the December 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole minutes, as presented for ratification, to be voted on separately, and the motion was lost, postponing the closure of the Centennial Village (Confederation Drive) rink at this time.

10.6 Rural Snow Removal, Sidewalks and Active Transportation Trails

The Chair provided an overview relative to the above noted.

10.7 Multi Use Facility

The Chair received the following question:

Would it be possible for the city to develop the multi use facility on the waterfront in collaboration with the owner of the Northern Woods property, next to the future art gallery and other tourist locations?

The Chair provided the following response:

Council is only considering two locations for a multi use sport facility, Chapples Park and property next to the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. Council has directed Administration to find a location and the above noted locations are being considered.

10.8 Bike Bridge at Memorial Ave

The Chair received the following question via email:

Is Councillor Johnsen in favour of the potential bicycle bridge (at memorial ave) and, do you know if the lobby group (that is pushing for the bridge to be done) has done any fundraising towards it?

The Chair provided the following response:

Prior to providing an opinion more information is required;

- what is the cost

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- what is the functionality, and
- why is the nearby trail/bridge not sufficient for bicycle use
- the group has a social media presence
 - not aware if funding efforts have been made

10.9 Quarterly Update

The Chair provided the following, for information:

- quarterly Neebing Ward updates will be provided via email
 - if you would like to receive updates or have any questions, please reach out:
 - via email: greg.johnsen@thunderbay.ca;
 - or by phone: 807-707-9973
- the next Neebing Ward meeting will be scheduled in late August or early September 2023

11. Adjournment

The Chair thanked Guests, members of Administration, individuals attending in person and those watching online and at home.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm