



Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive P.O. Box 328,
Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 4X7

Email: info@newmarket.ca | Website: newmarket.ca | Phone: 905-895-5193

Timing Adjustments to the Outstanding Matters List Information Report to Council

Report Number: INFO-2020-30

Department(s): Development & Infrastructure Services

Author(s): Adrian Cammaert

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In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this Information Report is to update and advise Council on three outstanding matters for which the associated timing will be adjusted.

Background

N/A

Discussion

The three Outstanding Matters that will be adjusted in terms of timing are Single-Use Plastics, Short Term Rentals Zoning Regulations and Heritage Designations, as discussed below.

Single-Use Plastics

Staff were previously directed to prepare a report outlining the responsibilities of the Province, Region and Town in relation to recycling and diversion, and provide information on what work is currently being done to address the reduction and eventual elimination of single use plastics. This report was to outline options for Council to consider to ensure the Town is taking steps within its jurisdiction to reduce and eventually eliminate single use plastics.

This staff report was to come to Council in Q3, 2020 and was accordingly placed on the September 14 Committee of the Whole agenda.

The pandemic has resulted in a situation where greater flexibility may be required for continued use of single-use plastics through disposable PPE and other products such as plastic bags, straws, and containers. Although this is still an important area to be addressed, it is felt that additional leeway on the matter is needed at this time as residents adapt to the pandemic health and safety protocols and public health advises further on appropriate COVID-19 controls. Therefore, this item is being deferred to early (Q1) 2021.

Action: Move staff report timing from Q3 2020 to Q1 2021.

Short-Term Rentals Zoning Regulations

Staff were previously directed to prepare a Short-Term Rental Licensing By-law, and amendments to the Zoning By-law. The licensing component was completed at the June 29, 2020 Council meeting. The amendments to the Zoning By-law remains outstanding.

Staff intended to bring the zoning amendments to Committee/Council in October 2020.

After additional thought, it has been determined that rather than bringing forward the zoning amendments in October, a more prudent approach is to first collect a minimum of 6 months of data regarding the new licensing regime. This will allow time for the tracking of any predominant themes or issues that may be addressed through the zoning amendments. In addition, it is noted that the current pandemic may not garner accurate data on short-term rentals as demand may be lower than typically exists, and the additional time may provide an opportunity to gather more accurate data, or reassess again in the future.

Action: Move zoning amendments/staff report from Q4 2020 to Q3 2021.

Heritage Designations - York Region Administrative Building and Newmarket Canal System

Staff were previously directed to assess the merits of having the York Region Administration Building and the Newmarket Canal System designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The timing of this report was based on the matter being researched by the Town's Cultural Heritage consultants, the draft designation reports being prepared and reviewed by the Newmarket Heritage Committee and the matter being brought to Regional Council for information. To date, the designation reports have been prepared and they have been reviewed and endorsed by the Newmarket Heritage Committee.

This staff report was to come to Council in Q3, 2020 and was accordingly targeted for the October 5 Committee of the Whole agenda.

Timing Adjustments to the Outstanding Matters List

Regional staff have recently advised that they will be in a position to advise their Council no earlier than November. In an effort not to bring the matter to our Council before Regional Council is made aware of the potential designation, this matter will be moved from Q3 2020 to Q1, 2021.

Action: Move staff report timing from Q3 2020 to Q1 2021.

Conclusion

The timing of three Outstanding Matters (Single-Use Plastics, Short Term Rentals Zoning Regulations and Heritage Designations) will be adjusted as described in this report.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

- Extraordinary Places and Spaces
- Environmental Stewardship

Consultation

This Report was prepared in consultation with staff from Planning Services and Public Works Services.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

None.

Attachments

None.

Contact

For more information, please contact pnoehammer@newmarket.ca

Approval

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Mark Agnoletto, Acting Director, Public Works Services