

WARD FOUR MEETING SUMMARY

Overview

On October 2, the Ward Four Meeting was held at the Gellert Community Centre. Mayor Rick Bonnette, Regional and Local Councillor Jane Fogal and Councillors Ann Lawlor and Bob Inglis were in attendance along with 12 residents. The format was informal, with several round table discussions.

Written comments were submitted and Councillors will be in touch with residents who provided contact information.

Residents discussed a variety of issues as noted below from traffic concerns on Mountainview Road and Danby Road to the status of particular developments, airplane noise, snow plowing and tax rates.

Speeding

Several attendees raised issues about speeding; residents commented that people were racing to make the lights in residential areas; that trucks were travelling at excessive speeds and that there was a need for increased speed bumps, stop signs and police radar.

Town's Approach to Traffic Calming

In April, a new 'Traffic Calming Implementation Protocol' was adopted by Council specifying that staff will work with residents and engage them on the process, options and impacts. Once a problem area has been identified, the next step is education where a Radar Message Board is used along with participation in the community Road Watch Program. Should the initial review indicate a possible speeding issue, the Town then undergoes a screening process: review of past complaints and application of speeding process criterion which considers the road classification, volume and percentage of speeds over the posted limit. If the criterion is met, staff will work with residents to develop a Traffic Calming Plan appropriate to the area which may include any or all of signage, speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, chicanes, traffic circles, roundabouts, centre islands, media barriers or full/half road closures. The proposed TCP (based on input from the public) then goes to Town Council for approval.

The Town has employed a new non-intrusive traffic calming device called a silhouette. This initiative (discussed with the Halton Regional Police Service prior to purchase) features a life-like cut out of an officer with a radar gun. The Town has two silhouettes and a list of locations where they will be placed for 2-3 weeks at a time. Staff will be collecting data pre, during and post silhouette use to determine whether the device was effective in reducing speeding.

Read the staff report on traffic calming [here](#).

Read the staff report on the 2019 work plan [here](#).

Tax Rates

Residents asked about the tax rate and were advised that Town staff is currently working on the 2020 budget with the direction that service levels be upheld and that the tax increase is kept to 3.9%. [See the message issued with the 2019 tax notice.](#)

Development Updates

Questions were asked about a number of different developments. It was explained that the Town does not have authority over private establishments and can only enforce certain by-laws regarding property standards and safety.

- Exchange Hotel

The property is now owned by Habitat for Humanity and the Town is working with them to preserve the heritage aspect by dismantling the building, creating an inventory of the pieces and determining re-use when the building is reconstructed. The project supports the Town's affordable housing strategy. Read more [here](#).

- Barber Mill

There has never been an application brought forward to Council on this private development; the Credit Valley Conservation Authority had concerns around the original proposal as it was set in a flood plain. Since then, the owner has had some new renderings created (but they have not filed a planning application) and the Town is hopeful that something will be constructed.

- McGibbon Hotel

This privately-owned building is another development that the Town would like to see re-started. Read more on the McGibbon [here](#).

Snow Removal

The issue of snow removal was mentioned a few times and residents were reminded of the priority order in which roads are cleared. During a weather event, Public Works staff work 24/7 to plow streets beginning with the main arteries and then clearing secondary streets and sidewalks. Learn more about the Town's operations [here](#).



Air Traffic

The issue of airplane traffic and noise was raised. Residents were advised that the Town has no authority over this issue however the Town has communicated concerns to the Greater Toronto Airport Authority. Residents may submit their own comments to the GTAA using an online form or calling their office:

[GTAA online complaint form](#)

GTAA Noise Management Office: 416-247-7682

Seniors' Housing

Residents raised the issue of building a nursing home and/or more affordable retirement homes. It was noted that these types of facilities are not constructed by the municipality however Town Council has noted affordable housing as a priority issue. Read more [here](#).

Comment Card Remarks

1. Sidewalk issue – south Georgetown
Reason asphalt over concrete to level the surface – why is this being done?
2. Re: Mountainview Rd S.
More enforcement needed. Lower speed required. Landscaping on Hungry Hollow lacks proper trimming on weeds.
3. Parking at Mountainview Rd. S. 4 cars/vans parked. Problem getting out of my driveway
4. Property backs on to Gellert Centre (4 feet radius from my fence line). Weeds need to be cut and maintained regularly. Tree planting, 11 Northwest Crt. not fulfilled by builder. Backing on to Gellert.
5. Gellert expansion proposals have parking lots and walkways that back onto Northwest Crt. Unacceptable. Parking lot needs to be moved to front with main parking lot. We paid for parkland not parking lot.
6. Tree planting behind Northwest marsh. Upkeep Danby Road. Upkeep marsh behind Northwest Crt. Light warning 10th Sideroad/8th Line. Parking lot (no) behind Northwest Crt. Lights tennis courts 11 pm should be soft lights. Traffic on Mountainview causes accidents, no parking on street. Dog park behind Northwest Crt., every 3rd house has one (dog). My neighbour has threatened to put poison on city grass to stop dogs from peeing. My dog has anxiety too much noise from Tennis! My daughter has asthma too many weeds coming in yard from unkept area marsh 4 feet/fence. Snow plow blocking driveways, seniors cannot remove!
7. Mountainview Rd. South.
Road conditions and truck speed and lack of police radar enforcement NONE.
8. Can you help me understand what we are doing about airport noise? Out of 45 ridings, around the airport, we make up 10% of all complaints.
9. All the issues I was concerned with were addressed. It is great to have meetings like this.