

Planning Advisory Committee – Official Plan Update 2021

Held: 4:00 PM, Monday, April 19, 2021

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Third Public Meeting in 2021

1. Call to Order

1. Director of Development Services
The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

2. Presentations

1. Official Plan Re-Launch – Director of Development Services and Public Facilitator Consultant

The Director of Development Services and the Public Facilitator Consultant welcomed the public into the meeting with 32 participants in attendance. This marks the official launch night to conform to the *Planning Act* R.S.O. 1990 guidelines.

Questions from the public were addressed by the Director of Development Services.

2. Natural Heritage – Roddy Bolivar, Bolivar Phillips Consulting
Mr. Bolivar discussed the following topics with the group.
 - Planning Hierarchy information for attendees
 - Source Water Protection
 - Floodplain and Other Hazards
 - Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development
 - Natural Heritage
 - Impact of a Changing Climate

Questions for the Breakout Room discussions.

1. What natural/environmental features do you most value?
Water features, shoreline, tree cover, designated wetlands, urban parks
2. What do you see as climate risk the OP Should address?
Flooding, heat, winter storms, local food supply, change the tree cover, biodiversity

Summary of the discussions from the breakout rooms.

Group 1:

- Trees – including canopy, benefits to mental health being in nature, plant fruit bearing trees to attract birds
- Caution when planting trees to ensure the species will grow in this area

- Insects increase in those considered pests and the loss of bees and other useful insect life
- Ensure households have 72-hour kits to be prepared for potential evacuations

Group 2:

- Waterways – continue to keep them clean and limit water wastage
- Concerns for air quality in the downtown with the truck exhaust
- Trees

Group 3:

- Waterways – concern for water levels, and water quality
- Protection of Trees with the Tree Conservation By-law
- Diversification of the greenspace
- Greenspace
- Risks include flooding, storms, drought and infections species

Group 4:

- Urban parks with tree coverage
- Shoreline with access to fishing, kayaking and canoeing
- Trails along the edge of the wetlands and waterways
- Plaques to identify the natural features
- Water flow is a concern
- Extreme heat is a concern, the splashpad and tree cover can offer some relief

Group 5:

- Trees as a number one concern.
- Concerned about biodiversity. Consider planting trees more suited the changing climate
- Town could consider developing an experimental tree farm for growing in the new environment
- Town could consider a tree replacement fund for trees that are dying out
- Pushback against some of the town developments if they are encroaching on the natural habitat

Group 6:

- Food security – need food and water to be able to endure climate change
- Biodiversity
- Trees – tree canopy for the beauty, to provide shade for people and buildings, thus reducing the use of air conditioners

Group 7:

- Trees and tree cover
- Provide more access to natural environmental features
- Concern for the water levels
- Improve Upper Tay water access

Group 8:

- Keep the trees because all the positive benefits
- “Ecosystem” is a term to be part of the OP
- Re-thinking the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland By-law
- Naturalized greenspace vs. just greenspace
- Provide succession planting
- Increase biodiversity
- Consider the Town’s “Urban Forest” providing a tree inventory with citizen stewardship
- Maintain walkability around town, including active transportation and more trails
- Need to plan greenspace into expansion areas

3. Cultural Heritage – Shannon Baillon, Bradley Wright

The Director of Community Services discussed the following topics of Cultural Heritage with the group:

- Cultural Heritage is a crucial aspect of the Town of Perth.
- Important for the Town
- Heritage Conservation District provided under Ontario Heritage Act
- Provided a Heritage Conservation District By-law overview
- Provided a Property Designations overview
- There have been no changes to the Provincial Policy statements, this is a very strong section in the current plan with minimal development issues in the downtown core

3. Next meeting

Monday 4 p.m. May 17, 2021.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.