



Town of Aurora
General Committee Meeting Report

Video Conference
Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Attendance

Council Members Mayor Mrakas in the Chair; Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Gilliland Humfryes, Kim, and Thompson

Members Absent None

Other Attendees Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer, Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services, Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Corporate Services, Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, Director of Finance, Allan Downey, Director of Operations, David Waters, Director of Planning and Development Services, Cindy Shaver, Communications and Community Engagement Specialist, Patricia De Sario, Town Solicitor, Michael de Rond, Town Clerk, Ishita Soneji, Council/Committee Coordinator

This meeting was held electronically as per Section 20.1 of the Town's Procedure By-law No. 6228-19, as amended, due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

General Committee consented to recess the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

General Committee approved the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services, on a two-thirds vote, with the following additional items:

- Delegation (a) Don Given, Founding Partner, Malone Given Parsons Ltd., Re: Item R9 – PDS20-045 – Application for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision, Shining Hill Estate Collections

Inc., 306, 370, 434 and 488 St John's Sideroad, File Numbers: OPA-2018-01, ZBA-2018-02 & SUB2018-02

- Delegation (b) Bruce Hall, The Planning Partnership, representing Owners of 15356 Yonge Street, Re: Item R7 – PDS20-032 – Revoking Servicing Allocation
- Item C1 – Memorandum from Mayor Mrakas, Re: Letter from Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), Re: The Benefits and Safety of 5G
- Item A1 – Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2020
- Item R9 – Replacement Report – PDS20-045 – Application for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision, Shining Hill Estate Collections Inc., 306, 370, 434 and 488 St John's Sideroad, File Numbers: OPA-2018-01, ZBA-2018-02 & SUB2018-02
- Notice of Motion (a) Councillor Gallo, Re: Trail Crossings
- Notice of Motion (b) Councillor Gaertner, Re: Aurora Community Tennis Club (ACTC)

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50.*

3. Community Presentations

None

4. Delegations

- (a) Don Given, Founding Partner, Malone Given Parsons Ltd.**
Re: Item R9 – PDS20-045 – Application for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision, Shining Hill Estate Collections Inc., 306, 370, 434 and 488 St John's Sideroad File Numbers: OPA-2018-01, ZBA-2018-02 & SUB2018-02

Mr. Given spoke in support of the staff recommendation noting that the application has been revised as per suggestions from the Public Planning meeting, and offered to respond to any questions or comments regarding the application.

General Committee received and referred the comments of the delegation to Item R9.

(b) Bruce Hall, The Planning Partnership, representing Owner of 15356 Yonge Street

Re: Item R7 – PDS20-032 – Revoking Servicing Allocation

Mr. Hall spoke to the Site Plan Application SP-2006-13 for 15356 Yonge Street noting that the owner intends to submit a new application with updated plans and revisions suggested at previous Public Planning meeting. He requested that the current servicing allocation be maintained for the property until the new application is approved.

General Committee received and referred the written comments of the delegation to Item R7.

5. Consent Agenda

General Committee recommends:

That the following Consent Agenda item, C1, be received:

C1. Memorandum from Mayor Mrakas

Re: Letter from Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), Re: The Benefits and Safety of 5G

1. That the memorandum regarding Letter from Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) regarding the Benefits and Safety of 5G, be received for information.

Carried

6. Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

A1. Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2020

General Committee recommends:

1. That the Heritage Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 1, 2020, be received for information.

Carried

7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)

General Committee consented to consider the items in the following order: R3, R1 and R2 together, R4, R5, R6, R7, R8, and R9.

R1. CS20-013 – Pros and Cons of Ward and At-large Electoral Systems

R2. CS20-014 – Electoral System Review – Final Report

Ms. Beate Bowron, Beate Bowron Etcetera and Mr. Gary Davidson, Political Scientist, presented an overview of the final Electoral System Review report including details of the public engagement and outreach process and comparison of the various ward options. It was recommended that the six ward option be the preferred ward boundary configuration for the Town as it achieves effective representation and leaves the Council size unchanged.

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report Nos. CS20-013 and CS20-014 be received; and
2. That the six (6) ward option presented by the Consultant be adopted and implemented for the 2022 Municipal Election; and
3. That a by-law be brought forward to a future Council meeting to enact the ward system.

Carried

R3. CMS20-012 – Library Square – Governance Review

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS20-012 be received; and

2. That the Not-for-Profit/Municipal Hybrid Model be approved as the governance model for the future operation of Library Square; and
3. That staff work with stakeholders to develop a fees and charges schedule for Library Square and report back to Council at a later date; and
4. That the Director of Community Services form a Space Allocation Working Group comprised of Town staff and key stakeholders that will provide recommendations regarding rental and booking responsibilities for Library Square, including all spaces at 22 Church St. School, the New Addition, Outdoor Square, Bridge and Aurora Public Library; and
5. That the Director of Community Services form a Collaborative Programming Working Group comprised of Town staff and key stakeholders that will provide recommendations regarding program delivery strategies and create a programming and performance schedule for Year 1 and Year 2 of Library Square operations; and
6. That the Director of Community Services form an Information Technology Working Group comprised of Town staff and key stakeholders that will provide recommendations regarding the delivery of IT Services for Library Square, including all spaces at 22 Church Street School, the New Addition, Outdoor Square, Bridge and Aurora Public Library.

Carried

R4. CMS20-014 – Hallmark Lands: Request for Information and User Group Survey Results

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. CMS20-014 be received; and
2. That the Director of Operational Services be authorized to commence the tendering process for 100 Vandorf Sideroad and proceed with Capital Project No. 73287 as previously presented; and

3. That staff report back to Council with an updated budget request prior to awarding the contract, if required.

Carried

R5. FIN20-017 – 2020 User Rate Funded Operations Forecast Update – as of April 30, 2020

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. FIN20-017 be received; and
2. That the Town's present 'break-even' water, wastewater and storm water rates be maintained for the remainder of the year; and
3. That a by-law to extend the Town's 'break-even' water, wastewater and storm water rates be brought to the June 23, 2020 Council meeting for approval.

Carried

R6. OPS20-010 – Award of Tender for Supply and Delivery of One (1) 2021 Combination Dump, Sander and Plow Truck

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. OPS20-010 be received; and
2. That the total approved budget for Capital Project No. 34440 be increased to \$263,900, representing an increase of \$23,900 to be funded from the Fleet Repair and Replacement Reserve.

Carried

R7. PDS20-032 – Revoking Servicing Allocation

General Committee recommends:

1. That Report No. PDS20-032 be received; and
2. That water and sewage capacity previously allocated to the following Site Plan Application be extended for one year:

- (i) Site Plan Application File SP-2018-03 at 15086-15106 Yonge Street;
and
- 3. That water and sewage capacity previously allocated to the following
Site Plan Applications, be revoked:
 - (i) Site Plan Application File SP-2006-13 (formerly D11-13-06) at 15356
Yonge Street; and
 - (ii) Site Plan Application File SP-2013-05 at 15132-15136 Yonge Street.

Carried

**R8. PDS20-037 – Capital Project No. 34527 – Yonge Street at Wellington
Street Right Turn Lane Intersection Improvement
Proposed Capital Budget Increase**

General Committee recommends:

- 1. That Report No. PDS20-037 be received; and
- 2. That the total approved budget for Capital Project No. 34527 be
increased from \$75,000 to \$94,100, representing an increase of
\$19,100, to be funded from the Roads Repair and Replacement
Reserve.

Carried

**R9. PDS20-045 – Application for Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law
Amendment, and Draft Plan of Subdivision
Shining Hill Estate Collections Inc.
306, 370, 434 and 488 St John’s Sideroad
File Numbers: OPA-2018-01, ZBA-2018-02 & SUB2018-02**

General Committee recommends:

- 1. That Report No. PDS20-045 be received; and
- 2. That Official Plan Amendment application OPA-2018-01 (Shining Hills
Collections Inc.) be approved to:

- a) Amend Schedule AA of OPA 37 to re-designate the subject lands from 'Suburban Residential (SR)', 'Suburban Residential (SR-1)', 'Core Area Open Space' and 'Supporting Area Open Space' to 'Suburban Residential (SR-2)' and 'Core Area Open Space (COS-1)'; and
 - b) Amend Section 2.0 of OPA 37 to add the following new Section 2.5 'Suburban Residential (SR-2)' and the following policy: "Suburban Residential permits fully serviced single-detached lots with frontages generally greater than 15 metres and areas generally greater than 460 square metres. Accessory uses and home occupations which are accessory to the residential use and compatible with the residential character may also be permitted. Neighbourhood oriented community services such as schools and parks shall also be permitted"; and
 - c) Amend Section 2.0 of OPA 37 to add the following new Section 2.6, 'Core Area Open Space (COS-1)' and the following policy: "The Core Area Open Space designation permits lands that are open space, approved stormwater management ponds, and approved road and municipal service crossings. Other than the above permitted services this area shall remain in its natural state with only passive recreation uses permitted; and
3. That Zoning By-law Amendment application ZBA-2018-02 (Shinning Hills Collections Inc.) be approved to rezone the subject lands from 'Oak Ridges Moraine Rural General (RU-ORM)' to 'Detached Third Density Residential Exception Zone (R3-XX)', Private Open Space (O2-XX), 'Oak Ridges Moraine Environmental Protection (EP-ORM)'; and
 4. That the Draft Plan of Subdivision application SUB-2018-02 (Shinning Hills Collections Inc.) to create eight blocks be approved, subject to the conditions listed in Schedule 'A' to this report; and
 5. That Council grant an allocation of 291 persons from the reserve to service the development of 90 single-detached dwellings on the approved Draft Plan of Subdivision; and

6. That the implementing Official Plan Amendment be forwarded to the Region of York for approval; and
7. That the Zoning By-law Amendment ZBA-2018-02 be brought forward to a future Council Meeting, after the implementing Official Plan Amendment is approved by the Region of York.

Carried

8. Notices of Motion

(a) Councillor Gallo Re: Trail Crossings

Whereas since the 1970's, Aurora's planners have been urged to include off-road trails in natural environments for non- motorized traffic; and

Whereas in 2011 with the assistance of Town staff and MMM Group the Trails Sub-Committee developed the Town of Aurora Trails Master Plan; and

Whereas during these unrepresented times, Aurora's trails have been used and appreciated more than ever; and

Whereas Aurora trails serve "the dual function of the trails network; as community infrastructure for non-motorized and self-propelled traffic, for utilitarian as well as recreational purposes"; and

Whereas key goals to the development of the Trails Master Plan are "Improve connections between existing trails, and to provide new trails and connections between residential areas, schools, commercial, industrial and institutional establishments, and parks, greenspace and natural areas" and "Create a connected network of trails which provide Aurora's residents with active, healthy lifestyle opportunities, the ability to travel easily throughout Town with opportunities to experience nature without having to rely on a car"; and

Whereas the Trails Master Plan has identified difficulties in trail development such as "challenging or non-existent road or rail crossings" and "a lack of trail continuity"; and

Whereas the Trails Master Plan has identified that the “implementation of the plan can only be accomplished through short, medium and long term actions under the leadership and guidance of Council”; and

Whereas Section 11.10 (d) Policies for Public Open Space of the Town of Aurora Official Plan states “This Plan aims to encourage retention, enhancement, and full utilization of the existing public parks, including enhancements to improve the visual and physical linkages with the parks and associated trails with, for example, wayfinding signage, improved streetscape links and crosswalks”, and Section 12 (d) states “Enhance the Greenlands System through a comprehensive network of trails, in accordance with the Town’s Trails Master Plan”; and

Whereas in addition, section 12.2 (a) The Greenlands System of the Town of Aurora Official Plan clearly states “It is a fundamental principle of this Plan that the Town promote an active, healthy lifestyle for its residents. The provision of a highly integrated system of environmentally protected lands, parks, trails and recreation facilities that are well distributed, strategically located, well maintained and diverse plays an important role in encouraging community members to have active and healthy lifestyles”; and

Whereas Council has passed the following resolution “Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff work with our local MPPs for their support and to advocate for Aurora to Metrolinx for re-opening the Cousins Drive Crossing and that staff provide an update report to a future General Committee meeting including an estimate of the costs of all possible options should the Town undertake the project”; and

Whereas the Mayor has sent a letter to Mr. Verster (CEO of Metrolinx) on May 13, 2020 regarding Cousins Drive; and

Whereas it is fundamentally clear the Town of Aurora is bisected by train tracks and in order to properly implement the Trails Master Plan and parts of the Town of Aurora Official Plan frequent and safe east west crossing for non-motorized traffic must be established; and

Whereas should the Town be interested in multiple non-motorized crossings along the train track, designs must be included in the tender documents during the track reconstruction by Metrolinx;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That staff provide a status report on all potential pedestrian crossings for non-motorized traffic along the train corridor to a General Committee meeting by the end of October; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That staff include in that report the priority crossings as identified in the Trails Master Plan and costing of detailed designs so that they may be included in the tender documents during the reconstruction by Metrolinx.

(b) Councillor Gaertner

Re: Aurora Community Tennis Club (ACTC)

Whereas the Aurora Community Tennis Club was allowed to open in mid-May as per an update to the Provincial Orders; and

Whereas the restrictions and measures required to operate the club in an effective and safe way have impacted the club's continued ability to resume operations for the 2020 season; and

Whereas a large part of their programming is tennis lessons taught by their Club Pro; and

Whereas the Club is asking permission for their Club Pro to permit one court at McMahon Park for tennis lessons in this 2020 season; and

Whereas this will hopefully enable the ACTC to maintain some level of service/connection with their members as they try to manage through a year of significant transition and the difficulties imposed by COVID-19; and

Whereas the recent Council decision anticipated that typical demand would be satisfied with the permitting of two courts at Fleury Park; and

Whereas, as a result of the pandemic, tennis is one of the few allowed sports and increased demand for permits has superseded supply; and

Whereas the permitting of one court at McMahon Park should have no impact on public availability as these courts are mostly reserved for the ACTC;

1. Now Therefore Be It Resolved That staff be authorized to issue Tennis Court rental permits for one court only, at McMahon Park, for the exclusive use of the Aurora Community Tennis Club Pro, for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year.

9. New Business

Councillor Gaertner inquired about the Joint Operations Centre final budget report and staff provided a response noting that the information would be provided as part of a Capital Project Close report.

Councillor Gaertner inquired about the status of the street light request in the Mosaics area, south side of 14700 Yonge Street, and staff agreed to follow up.

Councillor Gilliland noted her attendance at a Tele-Town Hall with Minister Lisa McLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Cultural Industries, and noted that \$13,000,000 has been allocated towards tourism recovery and marketing plan and that \$5,000 has been allocated towards initiatives in York Region.

Councillor Gilliland advised that the **Ontario.live** website has been launched, where artists and performers have an opportunity to display their art and merchandise.

10. Public Service Announcements

Councillor Humfryes extended a reminder that the Aurora Farmers Market and Artisans Fair will be on Saturday, June 20, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Town Park and advised that the artisans will be present beginning this Saturday.

Councillor Kim extended his regards to Tom Connor, Aurora resident and recipient of the 2020 Aurora Citizen of the Year award.

Councillor Gaertner extended her wishes for Pride Month and emphasised the importance of promoting anti-discrimination and increasing awareness on inclusivity in the society. She extended her regards to York Region Police for being the first police department to raise the Pride Flag in Canada.

Councillor Gaertner relayed comments of appreciation from Ms. Shillolo, Hartman Public School teacher, regarding the forthcoming butterfly garden in the Town's Wildlife Park.

Mayor Mrakas extended a reminder that due to the ongoing risks associated with COVID-19 & in the interest of public safety, the Town has cancelled all previously scheduled Town summer camp and aquatic programs noting that full refunds will be issued to all registered participants, and more information is available at **aurora.ca/summercamps** and **aurora.ca/aquatics**.

Mayor Mrakas extended his wishes for Pride Month noting that the annual parade has been cancelled and the Town will continue the tradition of raising the Pride Flag at Town Hall.

Mayor Mrakas announced the launch of the new online community engagement platform, Engage Aurora, a 24/7 digital platform where residents can share feedback on a variety of Town projects, and noted that more information is available at **engageaurora.ca**.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Town is looking for up to four members of our community to serve on the Official Plan Review Community Steering Committee (CSC), noting that more information regarding the Committee and the application form is available at **engageaurora.ca/opr**. He noted that the deadline for submissions is Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Town has launched a Business Visitation Program to provide assistance to Aurora businesses as they move forward to recovery noting that Town staff will be reaching out to businesses to schedule visits, and more information is available at **aurora.ca/businesssupport**.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Aurora Cares Community Resource Guide is now available at **aurora.ca/auroracares**.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Online Skylight Gallery, featuring artists Christine Chin-Fook and Tina Sanders for the month of June can be viewed at **aurora.ca/skylightgallery**.

Mayor Mrakas extended a reminder that residents can stay active and engaged by visiting the Recreation at Home webpage at aurora.ca/recathome that contains a collection of activities to keep families active at home.

Mayor Mrakas announced that the Town is hosting a NHL20 PS4 Canada Day Tournament noting that further information regarding the tournament, participation, prizes, and registration is available at aurora.ca/canadaday.

Mayor Mrakas advised that the Aurora Business Continuity Task Force and Aurora Cares Community Action Team were concluded and noted that Premier Doug Ford was in attendance at the last meetings.

Mayor Mrakas referred to his discussions with the Premier regarding commencing Stage 2 in Aurora starting on Friday, June 19, 2020, and the preparations the Town would be making to ensure a smooth transition.

Mayor Mrakas announced that as the Town prepares for Phase 2 of reopening, the Aurora Outdoor Patio Program has been developed for local business to ensure adequate expansion of patio areas. He noted that the program includes:

- Waiving of all application fees;
- Waiving of all application fees for minor variances for patio expansions; and
- Restaurants and bars that would like to expand to create patio space onto the sidewalk will have to enter into an encroachment agreement with the Town and must maintain accessibility requirements.

11. Closed Session

None

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.