

***Community of Malpeque Bay
Special Meeting
July 19, 2012
Malpeque Hall***

The purpose of the meeting is to receive input on a Resolution which pertains to the Official Plan currently being developed for the Community.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Chairman James Carruthers who identified the purpose of the meeting and read the advertisement including the Resolution as it appeared in the newspapers. He welcomed the The Honourable Wes Sheridan, Minister of Finance, Energy and Municipal Affairs, residents and landowners to the meeting and asked Jeremy Stiles, Chairman of the Planning Board for the Community to provide the background which led up to the meeting.

Mr. Stiles identified that the planning process was in its fourth year and that the draft Official Plan and Land Use By Law were available on the web site at www.malpequebay.ca

He indicated that the Planning Board would be conducting a second Public Meeting during the later part of August and that the particulars of this meeting would be available on the web site as soon as possible and a notice would be put in the newspaper.

It was noted by Mr. Stiles that the Landowners group, chaired by Winston Cousins, had indicated that their support of the Official Plan was conditional upon the removal of the Special Planning Area (SPA) Regulations. From the outset of this project, Council has intended to put forth a request to the Executive Council to rescind the restrictions imposed by the SPA on the Community once the Official Plan had been approved. The Landowners believed that Council should use this request as leverage and a negotiating tool in the process.

Mr. Stiles identified that there are four key zones to the Official Plan which include: Agriculture, Coastal, Residential, and Parks and Conservation Zones.

Mr. Jay Dee Murray suggested that Council would be in a position to make amendments to the Official Plan after submission of the document by Council and approval of the Official Plan by the Minister.

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Minister Sheridan was invited to speak to the meeting. He indicated that he personally supported the resolution 100%. The Minister identified that he had spoken to a number of the members of the Executive Council and that he felt confident that the request being made by the Community would be supported by them. He noted that the SPA regulation was put in place at a time when the Community did not have an Official Plan as a way of protecting and preserving land use.

The Minister indicated that he could submit a Memo to the Executive Council identifying in writing the request being made to rescind the SPA regulations within the Community of Malpeque Bay. He noted that Cabinet spent far too much time dealing with land use issues. He was confident in Council's ability to administer the Official Plan. He liked the common sense approach that the Official Plan has and reiterated his advocacy of giving the control currently held by the Executive Council on Land Use to the municipal level of government, who, in his opinion, are closest to the people.

He thanked Council, especially Jeremy Stiles, for the steadfast commitment and loyalty to the development of the Official Plan. He was particularly impressed by the fact that Council openly met with the Landowners group and other stakeholders and regularly updated the Official Plan to coincide with the needs of the residents and landowners.

Jeremy Stiles indicated that he would post the differences between having the SPA and not having the SPA Regulations. Noted was the fact that the Community Plan had to be as strict as or stricter than that of the Provincial Planning Act. The Community could not create a Plan which would include less stringent regulations than those imposed at the Provincial level.

Jay Dee Murray noted that Council and indeed all residents and landowners are bound by the Municipality and Planning Acts which are the foundation of the Official.

It was moved by Jay Dee Murray and seconded by Winston Cousins that the following Resolution passed at a meeting of Council on Wednesday, June 27 at Hamilton Hall be accepted by residents and submitted to the Provincial Government as written.

“BE IT RESOLVED that removal of the “Special Planning Area” as defined in Provincial legislation that lies within the boundaries of the Community of Malpeque Bay be a condition for the establishment of the Community of Malpeque Bay’s Official Plan and accompanying Land Use ByLaw and that the Plan and ByLaw will not be implemented by the Community of Malpeque Bay until the Provincial legislation is amended.” MOTION CARRIED

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Mr. Tom Pendergast asked if cottage owners had a vote? Jay Dee Murray suggested that seasonal landowners ask themselves where they vote in municipal, provincial and federal elections to answer that question. He indicated that he thought it prudent to hear from seasonal landowners prior to a vote because their opinion may influence those of us who can vote.

Chairman Carruthers welcomed and opened the floor to seasonal landowners. He thanked Jay Dee for being inclusive and welcomed their input. Mr. Tom Pendergast complimented Council on their work to date on the Official Plan and commended them for their fortitude and perseverance. Another seasonal landowner reiterated what was said by Mr. Pendergast suggesting that it was a document for which everyone could be proud. Austin Pendergast addressed the meeting, indicating how pleased he was to see the Minister taking an active interest in the development of the Official Plan and his sincere appreciation for those who have worked to bring the Official Plan to this point.

There being no further comments Chairman Carruthers asked for a show of hands of those in favour of and opposed to the motion The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

James Carruthers, Chairman
July 19, 2012

Joanne McCarvill, Administrator
July 19, 2012

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