



# MINUTES

**DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Committee Meeting Room 'A'**  
**2021 Division Road North, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2Y9**

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## **A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Larry Patterson called the Meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:

### Members:

Larry Patterson  
Thomas Neufeld  
Richard Welker  
Jeff Stevenson  
Henry Denotter  
Gerard Rood  
Tim Burnie  
Lyle Hall

### Members of Administration:

Ken Vegh, Drainage Superintendent  
Jennifer Alexander, Deputy Clerk-Admin. Services  
Shaun Martinho, Manager of Public Works  
Kevin Girard, Manager of Municipal Services  
Sandra Zwiers, Director of Financial Services

## **B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Chairperson, Larry Patterson reminded members that any declaration and its general nature are to be made prior to each item being discussed.

## **C. PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

NONE PRESENTED

## **D. STAFF REPORTS**

NONE PRESENTED

## **E. BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

E.1. Essex Region Conservation, Annual General Meeting 2017. RE: Education Award Recipient, Henry Denotter.

H. Denotter received the honour of being inducted into the Essex County Hall of Fame at on April 6, 2017. He is one of five people selected. The Committee has directed administration to send out his draft paper on this work regarding soil management.

## **F. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

F.1. Adoption of the Committee Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2016.

**01-2017** Moved by T. Neufled, seconded by H.Denotter, that the Committee

adopt the November 9, 2016 minutes and amend the attendance list to include Gerard Rood.

**CARRIED**

## **G. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **G.1. Drainage Superintendent, Ken Vegh Re: Update on the Train Court and Cedarhurst, Esseltine Drain area projects.**

K. Vegh discussed the Train Court drain project as it continues to move forward with a new plan. This plan includes installing an inlet catch basin. T. Neufeld asked the Committee in relation to the new plan, what is the additional cost to the project? K. Vegh indicated an increase of \$3,500.00 to the original budget.

K. Vegh discussed the Esseltine drain project. The Town had a public consultation on the drain proposed project where 100 property owners attended to voice concerns and asked questions. K. Vegh indicated to the Committee that our next meeting, he will address all residents that have concern directly. This is the largest drain project in the history of Kingsville drainage projects. L. Patterson- commented on the success of the public consultation meeting and thanked administration. L. Patterson felt the meeting was an opportunity to address resident's concerns and communicate our plans with the drain.

H. Denotter asked a question to the Committee as one land owner approached him regarding evergreens on the ditch bank. He wanted to inquire if there is a policy from Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) if they preserve evergreens? T. Burnie addressed the question and indicated that there is no specific policy, however they have a standard operating procedure directing their staff that if the evergreen blocks the flow of water, then the tree is removed on recommendation in the engineer's report.

K. Vegh discussed the update with Cedarhurst Park. It is moving forward with this project to address flooding. T. Neufeld asked the Committee what is the timeline on this project? G. Rood responded by indicating there are a few studies and reports to be completed with a projected fall or early spring start date.

### **G.2. Re: Drainage, Communication and Billing, issued on June 13, 2016 from Councillor Gord Queen.**

K. Vegh discussed the Town's resident communication issue with billing. The Town is striving to improve our communication with land owners and informing land owners when a drainage project is completed. S. Zwiers responded from a financial services view confirming that communication with residents is key. Zwiers explained that support staff are already overextended and do not have additional staff to add this responsibility. A compromise was proposed by Zwiers to the Committee that a letter can go out to residents if it exceeds if the notification timeline past the three month period explaining to land owners the reasons for the delay in billing.

H. Denotter indicated that communication regarding the *Drainage Act* be inserted in the tax bill and advertise the policy. Some new owners do not understand what their financial responsibilities are to land ownership and drains. S. Zwiers suggested that this can be added to the July tax flyer. Some residents could look at a property information report, when they are buying a property. We can add this to the July mailing.

### **G.3. Re: Notice to residents on drain projects update**

T. Burnie indicated that there is some excellent information from OMAFRA. They have Primers on the *Drainage Act* that can be posted on the Town's website. T. Byrne stated that their needs to be increased education with new farmers that are looking to taking over farms and their financial responsibilities through the *Drainage Act*. ERCA is receiving a lot of calls regarding this issue. R. Welker

indicated his frustration with the property assessments issues and culvert. New standards for bridges and culverts are still causing drainage issues and it is not financially viable. He would like to see the number assessed acreage on the Town billing.

#### **G.4. Letter from Richard Welker**

R. Welker indicated to the Committee that the Town has addressed this issue previously. T. Byrne stated that there are only a few projects assigned each year in their organization. K. Vegh and T. Byrne must abide by the rules set out in the Drainage Act. When a project begins with ERCA, there are set timelines and all conservation authority staff is dedicated in dealing with drainage work and requirements. For every project, staff has accountability reports and dates are recorded to track deadlines.

**02-2017** Moved by T. Neufeld, seconded by L. Patterson to receive the letter as information to the Committee.

**CARRIED**

#### **G.5 Paper by H. Denotter on Soil Management and the Cause of Feeding the World.**

The Committee directed Administration to circulate the paper through email to Committee members.

#### **H. ADJOURNMENT**

**03-2017** Moved by T. Neufeld, seconded by H. Denotter, that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. to meet again at the call of the chair or the third week in June.

**CARRIED**

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**CHAIRMAN, Larry Patterson**

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**DEPUTY CLERK – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES,  
Jennifer Alexander**