

Pontiac council - start composting

Mo Laidlaw

The regular council meeting was held on the 11th July 2017, at the Luskville community centre. Only four council members were present, and only seven members of the public, as well as the Director General and Communications director.

Public input

Pierre Pratte lives in Quyon and was affected by the flood. He wishes to build a new storage shed on higher ground and is trying to make sure it complies with zoning regulations as well as Environment requirements. He feels the different ministries are referring him to each other which is not helpful, and is not happy that he has to pay for an engineer's report with no guarantee that he will get a permit. Mayor Roger Larose will talk to the building inspector and suggested that he requests a minor derogation.

Tolerance roads

A bylaw was tabled on taking over maintenance of "Tolerance roads" - private roads with residences, that do not conform to the criteria for municipal roads (minimum width 5 m, foundations, drainage, slope etc). The municipality will take over maintenance (snow clearing, grading, drainage, and clearing vegetation) if requested by a road association, provided that minimum standards are met. The minimum allowed width will be reduced to 3.5 m for taking over tolerance roads. For drainage, only work affecting the life-span of the road and reducing future maintenance costs will be carried out. Grading will be done if there is enough gravel and as often as determined by the municipality. Work to bring roads up to minimum standards will be charged to the residents. After takeover by the municipality, costs will be paid by the municipality. For more on this, see the bylaw.

Planning

The second draft of a bylaw adding new zoning standards for two-generation housing in all zones was passed. Any addition must be for relatives of the owner occupier, and the entire house must have only one electric meter.

The second draft of a bylaw was passed, allowing semi-detached housing (side by side) and detached two-family housing (one above the other with separate outdoor entrances) in zone 13, which is the new project on ch. Père Dominicains.

Both of these bylaws will be subject to public consultation and approval.

Route 148

The Ministry of Transport is requested to reduce the speed limit between Thérien and Kennedy roads. This is both sides of the junction with Eardley-Masham road, the area now known as Eardley (which originally referred to the township, the east half of the municipality of Pontiac.)

Another request to MoT is to repair the asphalt on route 148 between ch Murray in Quyon and the start of the 4-lane in Luskville.

Heavy vehicles

A bylaw was adopted to prohibit heavy vehicles from travelling on municipal roads except for local delivery or service, returning to a storage location or to a repair shop. This means that heavy vehicles are only allowed on provincial roads (route 148, ch Lac des Loups, and ch Eardley-Masham), as well as Egan and Ferry. Farm machinery and emergency vehicles are excluded.

Composting

Québec is asking for a reduction in compostable material sent to landfill by 2020. The action plan on composting was adopted. It includes free backyard composters, a plan for training, education, and

communication. Each tonne of organic material removed from the garbage saves the municipality \$114 in dumping fees (and more for transport).

Changes to the bylaw on collection of residual material were tabled, to make composting obligatory. Residents must reduce to a minimum the amount of compostable material put in the household garbage. In particular, no green material (fruits, vegetable matter, coffee grounds, grass) can be put in the garbage.

Director General powers

A bylaw was tabled giving the Director General additional powers in line with provincial law. This will give the Director General of the municipality the same powers as the DG of a town or city. For example, the DG will be able to suspend an employee without a council resolution.

Expenses approved

Invoices amounting to \$92,165 and fixed and pre-approved expenses of \$297,656 for June, and incurred expenses for July of \$17,376.

Minutes of council meetings contain the full text of bylaws and are posted on the municipal website: www.municipalitepontiac.com

Mo's reports are archived at: www.heritagepontiac.ca/Municipality