

Pontiac Council - ch Lac Curley is no more

Mo Laidlaw

The regular monthly meeting of Pontiac municipal council was held on 6 July 2021 at 7:30 pm, by teleconference. About 10 members of the public joined council and director general Pierre Said online.

Mayor Joanne Labadie started by mentioning that this is the 16th Zoom council meeting. She thanked all municipal staff for working from home, in less than ideal conditions, "sitting at the kitchen table", perhaps with children taking Zoom classes or with seniors to look after. She asked Pierre Said to express this to the staff.

Councillor Nancy Draper-Maxsom recently resigned as she has moved from the municipality. The mayor thanked her for her two terms of service, and noted that she was appreciated by her colleagues.

Public input

Alain Henaff described a problem with ATVs driving on the shoreline of the Ottawa River. He'd like signs to be put up to inform riders that ATVs and dirt bikes are not allowed on beaches or shorelines, to stop damage to the environment (erosion, destruction of turtle nests and plants etc). Labadie explained that the river banks are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment which doesn't allow signs to be put up. Off-road motorized vehicles are a problem throughout the municipality. It is illegal in Québec for them to drive on public property such as riverfront. Riders may only use official trails or their own private property. She will ask for the MRC police to intervene.

Administration

With slightly less than 50% of English mother-tongue residents, the municipality may be required by Bill 96, "An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec," to lose its bilingual status. Council passed a motion to maintain its bilingual status and continue to offer services in both French and English.

The acting director of Infrastructure and Public works has resigned. The post will be advertised. Sophie Duval is hired as janitor and to do maintenance for municipal buildings.

End of Curley Lake snowmobile trail

To avoid costs of litigation an agreement with the National Capital Commission about the status of ch Lac Curley has been reached and was approved by a majority of council. In exchange for dropping claims to this trail the municipality will receive \$300,000 from the NCC to go into a fund for recreational trails.

In 1973 the road was designated as a colonization road, and became the property of the Québec government. In 1993 when the road was no longer maintained by the municipality or the government and not used as a public road, the former road became part of the lots located in Gatineau Park. Since then it has only been used seasonally for snowmobiling and parts are no longer suitable for motor vehicles. During the 2018 cadastral reform, title searches were carried out which indicated that the road no longer existed. The 2021 Gatineau Park master plan prohibits any activity on the trail.

The agreement is approved by Municipal Affairs. Councillors McDonald and Howard voted against signing the agreement. The mayor voted for it, although there was already a majority in favour. At the end of the meeting Marie-Anne Larose asked about the snowmobile trail that had been on this route. Mayor Labadie replied that the snowmobile club has not attended meetings with NCC

about a replacement trail along Eardley-Masham road for the last two years. Perhaps this agreement will persuade the club to move on.

Planning

Council voted against the advice of the planning committee (CCU) to support the request to the CPTAQ by members of the Lelièvre family to allow residential use of the west half of croissant Lelièvre in Breckenridge, about 18 acres, which was not completely subdivided before the law on protection of farmland came into force (between 1978 and 1981).

Requests to the CPTAQ to use farmland for telecommunications towers at 1 ch Chamberland and 3235 rte 148 were supported by a majority with Councillor McDonald voting against.

Recreation

The estimate from Cima for installation of the lighting system at Luskville recreation Park was higher than expected, and will have to be posted on the SÉAO website for tenders.

There will be a call for tenders to develop a tennis court (or multipurpose surface) at Fortin Park in Breckenridge in 2022.

Expenses approved:

\$1,604,904 to Pavage Coco for repair of ch Tremblay, the lowest of 4 offers. Financial assistance will be requested from the Ministry of Transport under the local road assistance program.

\$25,017 for Armtec, the lowest of two offers, for a 1.8 m steel, polymer-coated culvert, 24 m long, for the intersection of chs Tremblay and Papineau.

A maximum of \$19,000 added to the contract for monitoring the ch de la Montagne project, for managing invasive species.

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

The municipal website is www.municipalitepontiac.com