MINUTES OF M770/06-2016
NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION
GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO
June 15, 2016


Regrets: M. Miller.


Also Present: R. Patrick, President, C.O.N.E.

Meeting called to order: 10:00 a.m.

Chair Don Scott presided.

Introductions:

Acting Manager, Kim Peters, introduced the Commission to Chad Tennakoon who will be assisting with the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review.

Manager, Bohdan Wynnycky, introduced the Commission to Summer Student Andrej Obradovic who along with Jim Avram, Planner 1, will be providing assistance to the Georgetown office planners with processing of development permit applications.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – M769/04-2016

Moved By: McQueen
Seconded By: Louis

“That the Commission accept the Commission Minutes of April 21, 2016, as written with a minor change to page 12 from Agenda Item A3 to Agenda Item B1.”

Motion Carried
Note: The Commission also reminded staff that a follow-up letter regarding Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company should be sent to note that any further development on the site must be approved through the Development Permit Application process.

Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Commissioner Cambray inquired as to when the Commission can expect a presentation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on the issue of aggregate licences. The Director advised that this is on the action item list and is expected to be scheduled following the Co-ordinated Plan Review.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

MOTION FOR SPEAKERS

M770R2/06-2016

Moved By: Borodczak
Seconded By: VanderBeek

“That the persons representing the Applications listed on the Agenda be invited to address the Commission.”

Motion Carried

A1 SUB # 9592

PRESENTATIONS

Landscape of Nations
The Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial

and

Building Biosphere Capacity to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals Through Indigenous Partnerships: A Review of the Canadian Experience

The Director introduced the Commission to Mr. Tim Johnson, Co-chair of Landscape of Nations: The Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial 6. Mr. Johnson spoke to the Commission about the Six Nations and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial at Queenston Heights.
In April 2007, the Niagara-on-the-Lake War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee, including its sub-committees, was established as an official Committee of Town Council. The mandate of the Legacy Sub-Committee was to sponsor projects of lasting significance in the community.

The top priority of the Working Group was to recognize the significant sacrifices and contributions by Six Nations and Native Allies in the Battle of Queenston Heights, throughout the War of 1812 and in the establishment of peace.

A design competition was held and out of the 22 submissions from various artists, two artists were chosen to design the memorial. The winning artists, Tom Ridout and Raymond Skye, worked together to create the memorial. The memorial has 11 key focal points related to the culture of the Six Nations and history of the War of 1812. The memorial will utilize the Queenston limestone which is itself rich in history.

The memorial will be inaugurated on October 2, 2016 and the Commission was invited to attend the unveiling. The Commission thanked Mr. Johnson for his presentation and applauded him and the organization for their accomplishment.

The Director introduced the Commission to Mr. Larry McDermott, Executive Director, Plenty Canada, Co-chair of the EuroMAB Indigenous Collaborative Working Group and Co-chair of the Canadian Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. Mr. McDermott spoke to the Commission about building Biosphere capacity to achieve sustainable development goals through indigenous partnerships.

At the EuroMAB meeting for Biosphere Reserves in Brockville in October of 2013, it was recommended that an Indigenous Working Group be formed based on the strategic vision articulated by UNESCO. In 1995, the Statutory Framework for Biosphere Reserves explicitly included the function of sustainable development and subsequent documents indicating that maintaining cultural diversity and local livelihoods by involving local people were significant elements of the rationale for creating Biosphere Reserves. One of the 11 priority action items of the Madrid Action Plan 2008-2013 was that every Biosphere Reserve should carry out a planning process that assures participatory management, especially for traditional, local and indigenous communities.

All 16 Biosphere Reserves in Canada are in treaty or non-treaty traditional territories suggesting that these obligations are relevant to all participants in the Biosphere program. Discussions from the EuroMAB 2013 culminated in the establishment of an Indigenous Collaboration Working Group and a set of recommendations to guide ongoing engagement with Canadian Biosphere Reserves.

One of the Recommendations from the UNESCO Lima Action Plan adopted in September of 2015 notes that all outcomes, actions, outputs, primary responsibilities, and performance indicators in the Lima Action Plan should reflect effective Indigenous participation. Also, traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultures shall be present in all
Biosphere Reserve models in Nation States with any Indigenous populations as well as effective indigenous participation in the planning, implementation and governance of Biosphere Reserves.

The Commission thanked Mr. McDermott for his presentation. The Commission invited Mr. McDermott to participate in discussions on the current Niagara Escarpment Plan Review which is in the consultation phase. Mr. McDermott spoke about the challenges the First Nations communities encounter regarding consultation. The Director noted that the Commission will be working towards the creation of a document to acknowledge the First Nations territories in the Biosphere Reserve area of the Niagara Escarpment.

Broke for Lunch: 11:50 a.m.
Reconvened: 12:45 p.m.

C2 SUB # 9594

ADDENDUM REPORT
Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) Guidelines for Procedure at Meetings Procedure (21) for Closed Meetings (Update to November 2015 Staff Report)

RECOMMENDATION:

To Modify Procedure 21 for Closed (in-camera) meetings by including the following modifications as highlighted:

21. Closed Meetings

a) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including an employee of the NEC or other provincial government employee;

b) Labour relations or employee negotiations; [Suggested Modification 1]

c) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the NEC;

d) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose;

e) A matter in respect of which the Commission may hold a closed meeting under another Act.

f) Confidential advice or information to and from the Minister or Cabinet provincial government; [Suggested Modification 2]

g) Matters involving Commission conduct;

h) Discussion of conflict of interest matter that was raised during an open meeting of the Commission.
If a matter is not covered by the preceding list of reasons it should be discussed with the Chair prior to the meeting.

_Before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, the Commission shall state in their meeting agenda specifically which of the above listed reasons would be the subject of the closed meeting._ [Suggested Modification 3]

While the motion to move in-camera will be recorded in the Minutes of the Commission meeting, discussions conducted during a closed meeting shall not be recorded. Voting on the exercise of authority under the NEPDA (approval of a development permit, recommending approval of a NEPA) shall not take place in a closed session. _Once the matters in the closed meeting have been dealt with, the Commission shall by motion reconvene in open session to disclose in a general manner how the agenda items were dealt with in the closed meeting. The disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the Commission meeting._ [Suggested Modification 4]

**Note:** Bohdan Wynnycky, Manager, reviewed the Addendum Staff Report and answered questions.

**M770R3/06-2016**

_Robert Davidson_  
_Sec: Robert Baty_

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation.”

_Motion Carried_

**NOTE:** The amended Guidelines for Procedure at Meetings will be provided to the Commission at the next Commission meeting.

**A3**

**ADDENDUM STAFF REPORT**  
**DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION N/R/2014-2015/035**  
Andre and Judene Benoit  
Part Lot 156  
City of Thorold  
Niagara Region

**BACKGROUND:**

The original staff report was deferred by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) at its meeting of March 17, 2016, for continued discussion between the applicants and the NEC staff to consider alternate options. The applicant had indicated a willingness to accept additional conditions of approval if the second dwelling unit concept could be supported as a dwelling accessory to agriculture.
Subsequently, staff met with the applicant and produced alternate draft conditions of approval which would work with a decision by the NEC to approve a second dwelling accessory to agriculture.

**PROPOSAL:**

To construct a 2½ storey, ± 12.2 m (40 ft) high, ± 512 sq m (5,510 sq ft) single dwelling (including attached garage) plus attached porches/patios and a swimming pool, with a private sewage disposal system and driveway access; also to construct a 108 sq m (1,163 sq ft) hoop greenhouse accessory to a new agricultural operation; and to establish within the existing single dwelling a small-scale commercial use accessory to agriculture and a dwelling accessory to agriculture with a new customer parking area; all on a 3.1 ha (7.6 ac) lot.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommendation remains as presented in the original staff report as follows:

The portion of the revised proposal requesting the retention of the existing single dwelling as a second dwelling unit accessory to agriculture be **refused**.

The remaining portion of the revised proposal which will permit only one single dwelling on this lot be **approved** subject to conditions.

**Note:** Martin Kilian, NEC Planner, reviewed the staff report and answered questions. Judene and Andre Benoit, Applicants, presented and answered questions.

MOVED BY: Little
SECONDED BY: Louis

“That the Commission approve the original staff recommendation with the following Reasons for Refusal of the retention of the original dwelling on the lot and Conditions of Approval for the permission of one new single dwelling on the lot.”

**REASONS FOR PARTIAL REFUSAL**

Andre and Judene Benoit

1. The use of a second single dwelling where both dwellings are permanent buildings does not conform to Parts 2.2.2 and 1.4 of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

2. The use of a second single dwelling where both dwellings are separate permanent buildings does not conform to the land use policies of the City of Thorold.

3. The use of a second single dwelling where both dwellings are separate permanent buildings does not conform to the Official Plan for the Regional Municipality of Niagara which recognizes the Niagara Escarpment Plan.
1. Non-fulfilment or breach of any one of the conditions shall render the Development Permit void.

2. A site inspection(s) to the property may be undertaken by the Niagara Escarpment Commission to ensure that the development complies with the conditions of the Development Permit. Persons may accompany the Commission representative on the site inspection(s) who possess expert or special knowledge related to the conditions of the Development Permit.

3. No municipal building permit or other licence, certificate, permit or other similar permission relating to development shall be issued or be considered to be in force unless a Development Permit is in effect.

4. The Development Permit shall expire three years from its date of issuance unless the development has been completed in accordance with the Development Permit. [The applicant/landowner shall advise the Niagara Escarpment Commission in writing of the start and the completion date of development.]

5. Development shall take place only in accordance with the revised site plan, the revised development permit application, and the conditions as approved.

6. No site alteration of the existing contours of the property, including the placement or stockpiling of fill on the property, is permitted with the exception of that identified within the development envelope in accordance with the approved Site Plan.

7. No vegetation shall be cut or removed from the development envelope except for that identified within the development envelope in accordance with the approved Site Plan.

8. All disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated and stabilized, in accordance with the approved Site Plan, by the end of the first growing season following the completion of site grading and building construction, to a pre-development state or better. All trees, shrubs and nursery stock shall be native to Ontario except those where approved under the Development Permit.

9. Prior to the issuance of a Development Permit by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the owner/applicant shall submit, for the approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in consultation with the City of Thorold, Final Renovation Plans for the required conversion of the existing dwelling to a building accessory to agriculture and a small-scale commercial use accessory to agriculture, including the proposed uses and floor plan for the decommissioned rooms. The Plans shall show that the existing dwelling shall be rendered non-habitable by removal of all kitchen facilities (appliances, sink, plumbing and hard wiring).
Upon approval, these Plans will be stamped “NEC Approved” and shall form part of the Development Permit referred to in Condition #5.

10. The conversion of the existing dwelling to an accessory building as per Condition #8 shall be carried out within sixty (60) days of the date of issuance of an Occupancy Permit by the Chief Building Official for the new dwelling. The applicant/landowner shall provide written notification to the Niagara Escarpment Commission of the issuance of the Occupancy Permit.

11. Prior to the issuance of a Building Permit by the City of Thorold, an accurate and detailed Final Site Plan shall be submitted for the City of Thorold’s approval through the City’s Minor/Signed Site Plan Approval process and for the approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and shall include detailed information regarding the proposed private sewage disposal system and the existing private sewage disposal system or any improvements to the existing system as approved by the Region. The approved Final Site Plan shall form the Site Plan referred to in Condition #5 and will be stamped “NEC Approved”. Development shall proceed in accordance with the Final Site Plan.

12. Should Condition #9 not be fulfilled, the existing single dwelling shall be removed from the site in accordance with Condition #10. All waste materials generated by the demolition shall be completely removed from the property (e.g. taken to an approved landfill site or salvage/reclamation facility, or re-used/recycled elsewhere) and not otherwise stored or buried on site.

13. Prior to the issuance of a Building Permit by the City of Thorold, a Final Vegetation Preservation Plan shall be prepared by a qualified expert, for the approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. The Plan shall address vegetation preservation requirements and shall include but not be limited to protection and management measures in accordance with the standard practices of the implementing authority. Stipulations:

a) Prior to commencement of any construction, the protective fencing shall be installed and inspected by the consulting expert and a letter confirming the same provided to the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

b) Any vegetation noted for preservation and damaged from the construction process shall be replaced; trees 150 mm and over DBH (diameter breast height) shall be replaced on a per caliper basis. Replacement shall be to the satisfaction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

c) Subsequent to the completion of the works, including mitigation and management, a letter certifying the work has been completed in accordance with the approved plan shall be provided to the implementing authority by the consulting expert.
The approved **Vegetation Preservation Plan** shall form part of the Site Plan referred to in Condition #5 and development shall proceed in accordance with the details of the Final Vegetation Preservation Plan.

14. **Prior to the commencement of any development**, appropriate erosion/sedimentation control measures shall be implemented and maintained **as per the approved Site Plan** (Condition #5) until all disturbed areas are stabilized, **thereby ensuring that** sediments do not enter any watercourse, wetland, lake, pond, or sensitive area within the subject property or adjacent properties. The erosion/sedimentation control measures shall implement the “Recommendations for Construction” in Section 6.0 of the Stable Top-of-Slope Assessment prepared by Golder Associates on January 23, 2015. The applicant/landowner shall confirm the installation of the erosion / sedimentation control measures through the submission of photographs to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. When on site erosion and sediment control measures appear to be inadequate, the deficiencies must be addressed **immediately** and additional measures or practices implemented as needed. It is the responsibility of the owner to implement, monitor and maintain all erosion/sedimentation structures and practices until all vegetative cover has been successfully established.

15. **Prior to placement of any business signage**, the applicant shall provide proposed signage information through the **Site Plan** required for Conditions #5 and 9 and a design drawing to scale for the approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in consultation with the City of Thorold. Signage size shall be limited to a maximum of one 0.9 square metre sign and shall not be illuminated.

16. The majority of retail sales conducted as part of the small-scale commercial use accessory to agriculture shall be limited to the sale of produce grown on the property or produced on the property from the produce grown on the property, as outlined in the submitted revised Development Permit Application details.

17. All materials and equipment used for the purpose of site preparation and project completion shall be operated and stored in a manner that prevents any deleterious substance (i.e. petroleum products, silt, debris, etc.) from entering the adjacent woodlands, slopes, and water resource features.

18. Any equipment maintenance and refuelling operations shall be set back sufficiently to prevent spills from entering the adjacent woodlands, slopes, and water resource features.

19. Any stockpiled materials shall be stored and stabilized away from the adjacent woodlands, slopes and water resource features.
20. This conditional approval expires **one year** from the date of confirmation of the decision to approve the Development Permit Application. All pre-conditions to the issuance of the Development Permit (i.e. Condition 9) must be fulfilled **before** the expiry date or the Development Permit will not be issued. (Note: the Niagara Escarpment Commission advises that it requires reasonable time to review the information required by Condition 9).

NOTE:

1. This Development Permit does not limit the need for the requirements of any other approval, license or certificate under any statute (e.g. *Ontario Building Code Act*, *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Ontario Heritage Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Municipal Act*, *Highway Traffic Act*).

At the request of Commissioner Little, the vote was recorded.

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<th>For the Motion</th>
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<td>Alexander</td>
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*Motion Carried*

**A2**

**DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION H/R/2015-2016/215**

Pieter Knispel

Part Lot 5, Concession 2, NS

City of Burlington Halton Region

**PROPOSAL:**

To construct a 2 storey, ± 204.38 sq m (± 2200 sq ft) single dwelling with an attached garage, having a maximum height of ± 6.09 m (± 20 ft), construct a ± 9.29 sq m (± 100 sq ft) rear deck, a swimming pool with a surface area of ± 65.03 sq m (± 700 sq ft), driveway and on-site sewage treatment system, on a **proposed** 0.36 ha (0.9 ac) lot.
Note: The parent lot contains a residence and has an area of 0.72 ha (1.8 ac).

RECOMMENDATION:

The proposal be refused for the following reasons.

REASONS FOR REFUSAL

1. The proposed development conflicts with the applicable New Lots policies of the Escarpment Protection Area.

2. The proposed development conflicts with the Development Criteria in Parts 2.4.2, 2.4.4, 2.4.5, 2.4.6 a) and 2.4.8 of the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

3. The proposed development conflicts with Sections 1.1.4.2 and 2.3.4.3 of the Provincial Policy Statement.

4. The proposed development is not supported by the City of Burlington or the Region of Halton.

Moved By: Borodczak
Seconded By: Greig

“That the Commission approve a deferral to the July 21, 2016 Commission meeting as per the request of the Applicant.”

Motion Carried

NOTE: The Applicant requested a deferral due to family illness.

REVISED PROPOSAL:

To allow the following uses on a 0.81 ha (2 ac) site consisting of two abutting lots of record:
1. To recognize the use of a 223 sq m (2,400 sq ft) building (previously approved for use as a storage facility related to a truck depot business), and a 104 sq m (1,116 sq ft) building (previously used for candy packaging), both as commercial storage unit facilities.

2. To recognize the placement and operation of a maximum of 35 existing outdoor commercial mini-storage units, each being 29.7 sq m (320 sq ft) in area, and 11 trailer rental units, to be located in accordance with a revised site plan in the approximate area formerly used for transport truck trailer storage.

RECOMMENDATION:

The revised proposal be approved subject to conditions.

Note: Ron Tenbrinke, Prospective Purchaser, presented and answered questions.

M770R6/06-2016

Moved By: Davidson
Seconded By: Horner

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation with the following conditions which includes an additional condition regarding signage (Condition 11).”

Remi & France Ringuette

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL N/C/2004-2005/221

1. Non-fulfilment or breach of any one of the conditions shall render the Development Permit void.

2. A site inspection(s) to the property may be undertaken by the Niagara Escarpment Commission to ensure that the development complies with the conditions of the Development Permit. Persons may accompany the Commission representative on the site inspection(s) who possess expert or special knowledge related to the conditions of the Development Permit.

3. No municipal building permit or other licence, certificate, permit or other similar permission relating to development shall be issued or be considered to be in force unless a Development Permit is in effect.

4. The Development Permit shall expire three years from its date of issuance unless a valid municipal building permit issued within the three years is in effect and the development has been completed.

5. Development shall occur only in accordance with the Site Plan, Development Permit Application and Conditions as approved.
6. No site alteration of the existing contours of the property including the placement or stockpiling of fill is permitted with the exception of that identified within the development envelope in accordance with the approved Site Plan.

7. No vegetation shall be cut or removed from the development envelope except that identified within the development envelope in accordance with the approved Site Plan.

8. All disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated and stabilized, in accordance with the approved Site Plan, by the end of the growing season following the completion of site grading and building construction. All trees, shrubs and nursery stock shall be native to Ontario except those approved under the Development Permit.

9. Within one year of the issuance of a Development Permit, the applicant/owner shall obtain Site Plan Approval from the Council of the Town of Grimsby by submitting a detailed Final Site Plan approved by the Town, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, and the Regional Municipality of Niagara, which includes the site plan details recognized by the approval of the Development Permit, plus additional details relating to landscaping, vehicular access, signage, and parking provisions, and other applicable municipal requirements. Once approved, this will be the Site Plan referred to by Condition 5.

10. Prior to the Town of Grimsby’s decision to issue Site Plan Approval, the Niagara Escarpment Commission shall be satisfied that the Site Plan documentation adequately addresses the timing of compliance with all requirements of the Site Plan Approval.

11. Prior to the Town of Grimsby’s decision to issue the Site Plan Approval, the NEC shall be satisfied that signage will be restricted in area to 0.9 square metres and in overall design to be compatible with the visual environment of the Niagara Escarpment landscape character.

ADVISORY NOTE:

1. This Development Permit does not limit the need for or the requirements of any other approval, license or certificate under any statute (e.g. Ontario Building Code, Highway Traffic Act, Ontario Heritage Act, Endangered Species Act).

   Motion Carried
BACKGROUND:

The Belfountain Dam and Headpond are located on the West Credit River in the Belfountain Conservation Area, which together with the Willoughby Property and the Cox Property, comprise the larger Belfountain Complex.

The need for management of the Belfountain Dam and Headpond was identified in the early 2000s, however consensus was not achieved at the time, and ultimately decisions were deferred to the future until such time that the matter could be addressed through a park management plan. In 2015 the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), formally launched a Class EA to determine a preferred solution to address the problems associated with the potential failure of the dam, while considering other identified objectives for the area including conserving and enhancing natural heritage features and promoting natural stream function, conserving cultural heritage attributes, reducing risk to visitors and maintaining or improving visitor experience.

The study area of the Class EA falls within the Escarpment Natural Area of the NEP Area. Essential watershed management and flood and erosion control projects carried out by a public authority, and uses permitted in Park or Open Space Master/Management Plans, are permitted uses in the Escarpment Natural Area, provided that they are not in conflict with other NEP policies. The EA provides the justification that the undertaking is essential, which is defined in the NEP as that which is deemed necessary to the public interest after all alternatives have been considered.

The identified preferred alternative involves lowering the spillway by approximately one metre, repairing the dam, backfilling the headpond and creating a natural channel. The identified advantages to the preferred alternative include a reduced flood risk, an enhancement of the natural stream function, improvement in aquatic and riparian habitat and an area of reclaimed land (as a result of the backfilled area). The disadvantages identified include impacts to the built cultural heritage and the cultural landscape as a result of the reduction of the dam height and elimination of the pond feature.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the NEC receive the report on the Belfountain Class EA and preferred alternative.
2. That the Commission endorse staff’s analysis that the preferred alternative can be evaluated by the NEC by means of a Development Permit Application.

**Note:** Lisa Grbinicek, Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions. Laura Rundle, Conservation Lands Planner, Credit Valley Conservation, presented and answered questions. Deborah Martin-Downs, Chief Administrative Officer, was present and answered questions. Mark Thompsons, Senior Manager, PARCS, and Eric Baldin, Manager, Land Planning and Management, were present.

M770R7/06-2016

**Moved By:** Davidson  
**Seconded By:** Horner

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendations.”

*Motion Carried*

**NOTE:** The Commission thanked the Credit Valley Conservation for the presentation which was well done, concise and very informative.

**PRESENTATION**

**RE:** NIAAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT PERMIT SYSTEM PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Manager, Bohdan Wynnycky, presented to the Commission and answered questions.

The presentation started with an overview of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) development permit process. Staff discussed the changes to the database that have recently taken place along with some statistics generated from the database. The Commission suggested another column for the statistics which would indicate the total number of applications received. Files have recently been assigned a new status which indicates whether or not they are straightforward, moderately complex or complex which will be used as an indicator of possible time delays during the Development Permit process.

The ongoing efforts to streamline the process were discussed such as additions to the exemption Regulation 828/90 along with updating the Development Permit Applications to provide clearer language and instructions. The standard Conditions for development permits have been revised to clarify the roles and responsibilities between the NEC and other regulatory agencies. Files that have been inactive for over a year have been closed. A few Urban Areas and Minor Urban Areas have been removed from development control.
A new risk-based approach has been applied to compliance to focus the resources available to the most critical areas first. Planners responses to planning act files have also applied a risk based approach. New staff members have been hired to assist the planners with the processing of applications and the Senior Strategic Advisors have taken on some of the complex files.

The Minister has been sent a staff report prepared in November 2015 which puts forward many suggestions for streamlining and improving the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*. The Commissioners asked that the new Minister also be advised of this report and that the chair meet with the new Minister to discuss the report.

Staff began monitoring customer service back in 2014 using a two week spring and fall survey which had staff record all incoming inquiries from the public. This has been beneficial in determining where the calls are coming from and the nature of the calls. This information has helped staff with the design of the new NEC website. Also this will support the need to review and adjust the geographic boundaries.

Staff will continue to engage the municipalities and will educate various stakeholders and community groups about the NEC and the Development Permit system.

The Commissioners were concerned with staff workload. Several Commissioners noted that the municipalities could be of assistance at the beginning of the process by advising the public when they are in the plan area and answer any general questions regarding the Niagara Escarpment Development Permit process. Staff advised that they have met with several municipalities to date and will continue to reach out to all the municipalities to build stronger relations. Staff is working towards more effective communication with the public which is a key concern of the Commission. The Commissioners also acknowledged having a role to play in educating the public regarding the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

**INFORMATION REPORTS – G Package**

**M770R8/06-2016**

*Moved By:* Elgar  
*Seconded By:* Baty

“That the Commission receive the “G” package.”

*Motion Carried*

**DISCUSSION**

A Commissioner expressed concern with the transfer of management of the Milton Quarry (G3) due to the perpetual pumping aspect of the aggregate licence. Staff is to report back with the name of the company that now holds the licence for Milton Quarry.
A Commissioner asked staff for an explanation as to the withdrawals of the appeals for the application from Great Blue Resorts. Staff explained that all the appellants have withdrawn after a series of meetings and pre-hearing conference calls were held and resulted in the negotiation of an agreement between the parties. All the issues have been resolved and staff are waiting for the clearance from the hearing office to issue a Development Permit.

The Commissioners had a few comments and questions regarding G1, G4, G5 and G2 in the package. Staff were able to respond and the Commission was satisfied that their questions had been answered.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

M770R9/06-2016

Moved By: Elgar

“That this meeting be adjourned.”

Motion Carried

Time of Adjournment: 4:20 p.m.

Original Signed by:

Don Scott
Chair