MINUTES OF M775/11-2016
NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION
GEORGETOWN, ONTARIO
November 17, 2016


Regrets: S. Davidson.


Also Present: R. Pineo, Niagara Escarpment Program Team Leader, Natural Heritage Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; R. Patrick, President, C.O.N.E., Ala Boyd, Manager, Natural Heritage Section, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

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

Chair Don Scott presided.

Introductions:

The Director introduced the Commission to the new Director, David Ayotte, starting December 1, 2016. The Commission welcomed him and thanked Deb Pella Keen for her contributions to the Niagara Escarpment Commission over the last 3 years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – M774/10-2016

M775R1/10-2016

Moved By: Horner
Seconded By: Cambray

“That the Commission accept the Commission Minutes of October 20, 2016, as written with a minor change to page 3 from Agenda Item A2 to include condition 21, to change Agenda Item A1 to Agenda Item A3 on page 7, and to revise New Business on page 15 to reflect Commission appointments be staggered to match municipal appointments.”

Motion Carried
Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

The Commission requested an update on Commission meeting procedure regarding majority vote requirements. Staff will update the Commission in February 2017.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

MOTION FOR SPEAKERS

M775R2/11-2016
Moved By: Beattie
Seconded By: Downey

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

Motion Carried

D1 SUB # 9602

RE: Request for Delegation from Niagara-on-the-Lake UNESCO Committee

BACKGROUND:

David Hemmings, of the Niagara-on-the-Lake UNESCO Committee, requested a delegation to present the Niagara-on-the-Lake UNESCO Heritage Designation submission, and request a letter of support in principle from the Commission.

M775R3/11-2016
Moved By: Alexander
Seconded By: Little

“That the Commission request the submission information and for staff to assess and prepare a letter of support from the Chair to the Niagara-on-the-Lake UNESCO Committee prior to the December 12, 2016 deadline.”

Motion Carried
PRESENTATION

PROPOSED AGGREGATE RESOURCES AND MINING MODERNIZATION ACT, 2016

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry presented proposed changes to the Aggregates Resources Act, including review history, current review process, and next steps. The intent is to provide stronger oversight and more flexibility for unique situations/further needs.

DISCUSSION

The Commission raised concern that consultation does not equal consent with Aboriginal communities, that financial requirements do not include perpetual pumping and assurance is required that operators are able to pay for perpetual pumping in future. Commission concerns were noted and will be submitted to the Ministry. The Commission also inquired about timing for the increased fees per tonne.

Note: Pauline Desroches, Manager, Resource Development Section, and Maria VandenHeuvel, Senior Policy Advisor, Aggregates, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, presented and answered questions via teleconference.

C5 SUB #9599

Re: STAFF REPORT
Review of Bill 39, Aggregate Resources and Mining Modernization Act, 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) endorse this Report and submit it to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and post it on the Environmental Registry.

DISCUSSION:

Staff will continue to work with the Ministry to ensure issues are raised and addressed; staff is also on a working group on fill management. The Commission was concerned about resources and funding for rolling out the proposed changes, the lack of appeal process, no additional onsite inspectors. Table 1 fill is not specifically referenced as a requirement, financial security is not a requirement for applications and asked if it could be a Condition of Approval for every application; staff noted this may need to be vetted through legal staff.
Note: Nancy Mott, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.

M775R4/11-2016  
Moved By: Louis  
Seconded By: Baty  

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation.”  

Motion Carried

A2

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION P/R/2016-2017/071  
Eduarda Cimbon-Corner  
Part Lot 12, Concession 5  
Town of Caledon Region of Peel

PROPOSAL:

To construct a one-storey dwelling, sewage disposal system and a driveway, on an existing 0.70 ha (1.73 ac) lot.

RECOMMENDATION

That the application be approved, subject to conditions

Note: Debbie Ramsay, NEC manager, reviewed the staff report and answered questions.

M775R5/11-2016  
Moved By: Miller  
Seconded By: VanderBeek  

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation with Condition 10 amended to state that sediment and erosion fencing shall maintain a 6 metre setback from top of bank.”

Cimbron-Corner

CONDITIONS of APPROVAL P/R/2016-2017/071

1. Development shall occur in accordance with the Site Plan, Development Permit Application and Conditions as approved.

2. The Development Permit shall expire three years from its date of issuance unless the development has been completed in accordance with the Development Permit.
3. The landowner shall advise the Niagara Escarpment Commission in writing of the start and the completion date of the development. This notice shall be provided to the NEC 48 hours prior to the commencement of development, and within 14 days upon completion.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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. All trees, shrubs and nursery stock shall be native to Ontario except those where approved under the Development Permit. Native plant material should be sourced from local plant nurseries when available; bush dug plant material is not acceptable.

7. The dwelling shall not contain more than one dwelling unit.

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

a) Inventory, assessment and detailed preservation plans to be prepared for the works to be implemented;

b) Identify all protective measures including vegetation protection fencing, Erosion and Sediment controls, inspection schedule and management;

c) 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.

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

e) 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 a qualified person.
f) All drawings submitted must be to scale (bar scale shown), reference the application number and address of the proposal, be dated (revision dates noted) and denote the author/consultantprofessional preparing the information.

The approved Vegetation Preservation Plan shall form part of the Site Plan referred to in Condition # 1 and development shall proceed in accordance with the details of the Final Vegetation Preservation Plan.

9. Prior to the issuance of the Development Permit by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, a Final Landscape Plan shall be prepared by a qualified expert, for Niagara Escarpment Commission approval. The Plan shall address all landscape requirements. Stipulations:

a) Planting and the rehabilitation of all disturbed areas shall be completed, by the end first growing season following the completion of grading and servicing to the satisfaction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission;

b) All plant material shall be guaranteed for 24 months following installation. All plant material found during this time to be dead or dying must be replaced with a size and species to the satisfaction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission;

c) Subsequent to the completion of the works a letter certifying the work has been completed in accordance with the approved plan shall be provided to the Niagara Escarpment Commission by the consulting expert.

The approved Final Landscape Plan shall form part of the Site Plan referred to in Condition #1 and development shall proceed in accordance with the details of the Final Landscape Plan.

10. Prior to the commencement of any development, all Erosion and Sediment Controls (ESC) and vegetation protection fencing and other measures shall be installed as per the Final Site Plan, Vegetation Preservation Plan, and Final Landscape Plan. Sediment and erosion control fencing shall maintain a 6 metre setback from top of back. The installation of all protective measures shall be inspected by a qualified professional, and a letter including photographs confirming the same be filed with the Niagara Escarpment Commission. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to implement and maintain all protection measures. Any deficiencies shall be reported to the Niagara Escarpment Commission and addressed immediately.

11. All waste materials generated from the demolition shall be completely removed from the property (e.g., taken to an approved landfill site, savage/reclamation facility, re-used/recycled elsewhere) and not otherwise stored or buried on-site. All disturbed areas shall be immediately stabilized / rehabilitated as per the approved Site Plan (Condition # 1).
12. This conditional approval expires one (1) year from the date of confirmation of the decision to approve the Development Permit application. Conditions #8 and #9 of this conditional approval shall be fulfilled before the expiry date.

Notes:

a) 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, Conservation Authorities Act, Endangered Species Act, etc.).

b) The Niagara Escarpment Commission supports the protection of the night sky from excessive residential lighting and recommends that the applicant obtain information on shielding the night sky through the use and operation of appropriate lighting fixtures. This information is available at www.darksky.org.

Motion Carried

A1

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION (AS BUILT) G/L/2016-2017/9154
Beaver Valley Ski Club (BVSC)
Lots 1 & 2, Concession 5 & 6 (Club address 124 Pioneer Dr)
Municipality of Grey Highlands (Euphrasia), County of Grey

PROPOSAL:
To recognize the unauthorized installation of 2 culverts and inflow/outflow channels, and to undertake grading and stabilization work on the access (Beaver Trail) and repair work to the existing east bridge (twin bridges) at the Beaver Valley Ski Club, to improve conveyance of water and safe access/egress from both the Clubhouse/Ski Lodge and residential components of the property.

The range of works would include:

• reinforce and rehabilitate the area around the inlet to two new (existing) overflow culverts with rip rap, and stabilize the inlet/outlet of these structures;
• stabilize and reinforce the new (existing) overflow channels north and south of the culverts;
• adjust the road grade for a distance of approximately 20 m on west side and 60 m on the east side of the bridges, and make roadway base improvements to better address flood water flow; and,
• make minor alterations to the design, i.e. add wing/head wall, erosions control features, and repairs to the structure (platform) of the bridge.
RECOMMENDATION:

That the application be approved subject to conditions.

Note: Rick Watt, NEC Senior Planning Coordinator, reviewed the staff report and answered questions.

Moved By: Elgar
Seconded By: McQueen

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation and note that the works were required due to emergency conditions.”

BEAVER VALLEY SKI CLUB

CONDITIONS of APPROVAL

1. Development shall occur in accordance with the Site Plan, Development Permit Application and Conditions as approved.

2. The Development Permit shall expire three years from its date of issuance unless the development has been completed in accordance with the Development Permit.

3. The landowner shall advise the Niagara Escarpment Commission in writing of the start and the completion date of the development. This notice shall be provided to the NEC 48 hours prior to the commencement of development, and within 14 days upon completion.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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. All trees, shrubs and nursery stock shall be native to Ontario except those where approved under the Development Permit. Native plant material should be sourced from local plant nurseries when available; bush dug plant material is not acceptable.
7. Prior to the commencement of any development, appropriate erosion/sediment control measures shall be implemented and maintained as shown on the approved Site Plan (Condition #1) until all disturbed areas are stabilized. A qualified professional shall confirm the installation of the erosion/sediment control measures through the submission of correspondence and photographs to the Niagara Escarpment Commission. It is the responsibility of the landowner to implement, monitor and maintain all erosion/sedimentation control structures until natural vegetative cover has been successfully established. Any deficiencies shall be addressed immediately.

8. Subsequent to the completion of the works, a Plan the final works completed and letter certifying the work has been completed in accordance with the approved plan, shall be provided to the Niagara Escarpment Commission by a qualified person.

9. Prior to the issuance of a Development Permit by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, an accurate and detailed Final Site Plan shall be submitted for Niagara Escarpment Commission approval. The Plan shall include but not be limited to the following:

   a) All drawings submitted must be drawn to scale (bar scale shown), reference the application number and address of the proposal, be dated (revisions as well) and denote the relevant consultant;
   b) An accurate delineation of the approved work zones for both the inlets and outlets of the culverts, including dimensions of the construction work area, location of the stabilization work and final elevations of the culvert and surrounding area;
   c) An accurate description of the proposed construction work on the roadway east from the bridge, including a detailed cross section, final elevation, side slope and the extent of all disturbed areas;
   d) An accurate description of the proposed work on the roadway west of the bridge, including a detailed cross section, final elevation, side slope and the extent of all disturbed areas;
   e) An accurate location and description of the erosion and sediment control facilities to be installed along the road ways, abutting the watercourse and in the area of the inlet and outlet work zones, as per OPSD standard drawings;
   f) Extent and amount of fill removal or placement. Grading and drainage design including the areas of excavation and temporary storage or permanent fill placement. The type, quantity, quality and source location of any imported fill material must be accurately identified. Any fill material approved for importation under this Permit shall conform to the definition of “inert fill” per Ontario Regulation 347 and Table 1 of the Soil, Groundwater and Sediment Standards for use per Part XV.1 of the Environmental Protection Act, dated March 9, 2004.
Condition 9 Part f) continued:

The approved Final Site Plan shall form the Site Plan referred to in Condition # 1 and development shall proceed in accordance with the details of the approved Final Site Plan.

10. Prior to the issuance of a Development Permit by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the applicant shall submit for the approval of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, final construction details for the bridge, channel, culvert and road work. Upon approval, these plans will be stamped “NEC Approved” and shall form part of the Development Permit referred to in Condition # 1.

11. This conditional approval expires one (1) year from the date of confirmation of the decision to approve the Development Permit application. Conditions # 9, 10 of this conditional approval shall be fulfilled before the expiry date.

Notes:

a) 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, Conservation Authorities Act, Endangered Species Act, etc.).

b) The County of Grey Official Plan identifies the property as within a Special Policy Area (karst features).

Motion Carried

PR2

STAFF REPORT
RE: Position of the Public Interest Advisory Committee
Coordination Provincial Plan Review – Niagara Escarpment Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) receive the report for information.

BACKGROUND:

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, Section 17.(2)(b) requires that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry consult with any advisory committee established to advise and make recommendations to the Minister in respect of the
amendment and implementation of the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP). The Public Interest Advisory Committee (PIAC) met on October 4 and October 19, 2016 to consider the proposed NEP which was released by the government for consultation on May 10, 2016. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the position of the PIAC with respect to the proposed NEP. At the time of writing this report, the PIAC had not finished reviewing and endorsing the meeting notes. These will be provided to the Commission when available.

**Note:** Nancy Mott, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.

**M775R7/11-2016**

*Moved By:* Beattie  
*Seconded By:* Louis

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation.”

*Motion Carried*

**NOTE:** Staff advised that the PIAC minutes have not been finalized; it is noted where the Committee was unable to reach consensus. The minutes will be provided to the Commission once they are completed.

**C1**

**Re:** Information Report  
Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment PH 180, Development Permit Application H/E/2008-2009/326  
Final Decision Joint Board  
Acton quarry expansion, Town of Halton Hills, Region of Halton

**BACKGROUND:**

A Joint Board hearing was held in June 2016 with respect to the proposed expansion of the CRH Canada Group Inc. (Dufferin Aggregates) quarry in the Town of Halton Hills. An Intern Decision was released by the Joint Board in August 2016. The final decision was withheld for 90 days pending a final review by all affected agencies of the planning instruments and whether those might be in conflict the the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) and Permit To Take Water (PTTW) being considered by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Changes (MOECC).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission receive the information report.
DISCUSSION:

The Joint Board decision is final. The development permit will be issued next; annual monitoring reports can be peer reviewed to identify any concerns using the funds provided by the proponent in accordance with the Development Permit Agreement.

Note: Nancy Mott, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.

M775R8/11-2016

Moved By: Borodczak
Seconded By: Elgar

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation.”

Motion Carried

Broke for lunch: 11:45 a.m.
Reconvened: 12:45 p.m.

C3 SUB #9600

INFORMATION REPORT
Re: Conditions of Approval

BACKGROUND:

At the August 2016 Niagara Escarpment Commission (Commission) meeting, staff presented an information report with regard to a comprehensive review of the Conditions of Approval applied to Development Permits and to conditionally approved applications. The goal was to modernize, streamline, and simplify the Conditions for improved implementation and efficiencies. Conditions must be concise, free of ambiguity, and clearly laid out for the applicant, the public, municipalities and agencies, and for compliance purposes. The Commission specifically discussed how to approach Condition 6 regarding the approach and stipulation regarding use of only native species, and circumstances under which non-native species may be appropriate. The options were presented.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff seeks direction for Condition 6 regarding use of non-native species, and recommends re-assessment of the effectiveness of, and any challenges with the new Conditions after a one year period and will report back to the Commission at that time.
DISCUSSION:

Staff noted that the revised conditions are designed to allow tailoring to each development permit application; staff introduced 3 controlled options for use of non-native species where native species would not be appropriate/viable. Staff also noted use of an advisory notes section that will be specific to each development permit identifying any additional approvals, licences or certificates with provision of the related statute for reference.

Note: Rick Watt, NEC Senior Planning Coordinator, reviewed the staff report and answered questions.

M775R9/11-2016

Moved By: Cambray
Seconded By: Beattie

“That a condition be added to the advisory note that a Niagara Escarpment Commission development permit is required prior to issuance of any other permit.”

Motion Carried

M775R10/11-2016

Moved By: Cambray
Seconded By: Miller

“That the Commission endorse Condition 6 option 3 with the word “except” removed.”

Motion not carried

M775R11/11-2016

Moved By: Little
Seconded By: Elgar

“That the Commission endorse Condition 6 option 1 to read ‘only in extenuating circumstances will non-native species be considered’; supports the preparation of guidance material where non-native species will be considered appropriate; and endorses the portion of Option 2 to “rely on the discretion of staff to consider and apply circumstances where non-native species may be appropriate”.”

Motion carried

M775R12/11-2016

Moved By: Horner
Seconded By: Louis

“That the Commission receive revised Conditions of Approval as amended.”

Motion carried
Lura Consulting Ltd. provided a draft summary of recurring themes and key areas of interest received during the Round 2 consultations of the Coordinated Land Use Planning review. The Commission requested clarification on contributing parties to confirm all known comments were received. The Commission requested clarification of the government parties included (federal, provincial). LURA will take Commission questions back for clarification.

**Note:** James Knott, Project Manager and Lily d’Souza Project Coordinator, Lura, NEC Senior Planning Coordinator, presented the report and answered questions.

**M775R13/11-2016**

*Moved By: Baty*

*Seconded By: Beattie*

“That the Commission receive the report.”

*Motion carried*

**PR1**

**RE:** STAFF REPORT

Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review:

Final Recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry on Proposed Additions to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area

**BACKGROUND:**

In July 2015, as part of the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review (Co-ordinated Plan Review), the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) proposed that the government consider adding lands to the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) area. Potential areas for addition were included in the NEC’s advice to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry in July 2015, following the completion of the first phase of consultation (February to May 2015) for the Co-ordinated Plan Review.

In May 2016, the government released the proposed additions for consultation during the second phase of consultation, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Co-ordinated Review Advisory Panel, the NEC, and comments received during the first phase of consultation. The proposed additions attracted a significant amount of
attention from municipalities, landowners and the media. NEC staff has assessed the comments received during the consultation, and has consulted with the Public Interest Advisory Committee, in accordance with section 17(2) of the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*. Staff is now recommending that the Commission provide its advice to the Minister on the proposed NEP Area additions.

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Commission not endorse any NEP Area additions at this time, and that any additions to the NEP Area be considered after more extensive consultation is carried out through a provincially-led process to grow the Greenbelt, as described in recommendation 71 of the Co-ordinated Review Advisory Panel’s final report.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Commission requested clarification if the Violet Spillway was included in the proposed additions; staff confirmed that it was included in the proposed additions, and apologized for the error in the Staff Report. It was noted that municipalities have requested to be equal partners in the process for land additions, and that they are extremely concerned about the impacts of the additions and other mapping changes on their property tax revenues as a result of increased eligibility for the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program. Staff expressed concern that there seems to be a lack of awareness and support for the Niagara Escarpment Plan, especially in northern Plan areas, and suggested there be a renewed focus on communicating the benefits of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Some Commissioners expressed support for adding areas to the NEP that would not be controversial, for example, lands already in public ownership. The Commission should seek to protect more lands that are part of the Escarpment landscape. There was also concern expressed that the Commission was not proceeding with additions because of a few objections. In response, staff noted that objections were not limited to private landowners, but also included significant objections from several municipalities.

**Note:** Kim Peters, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.

**M775R14/11-2016**

*Moved By: Louis*
*Seconded By: Greig*

“That Recommendation 2 on page 9 be amended to read ‘as part of the provincially-led process to grow the Greenbelt, engage municipalities, stakeholders and Indigenous communities as partners in a collaborative process to further refine the potential additions to the NEP area, and given the potential impact of CLTIP on municipal revenues, that municipal participation be given special attention.”

*Motion carried*
BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry was given a mandate to work with other ministries, municipalities and partners to review Ontario’s broad wetland conservation framework and identify opportunities to strengthen policies and stop the net loss of wetlands in the province. In response, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is working to develop a Wetland Conservation Strategy for the province that will set out a series of actions that the government will undertake over the next 15 years to improve wetland conservation and stop the net loss of wetlands. As a first step in the process, the MNRF released a Discussion Paper in October 2015 entitled Wetland Conservation in Ontario and posted on the Environmental Registry (ER) inviting comment. Building on the feedback received on the Discussion Paper, the MNRF has developed a Draft 15-year Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario which was also posted on the ER for comment. The draft Strategy provides a conceptual framework for conserving Ontario’s wetlands, including a list of actions the government will undertake to ensure progress on the actions. Four strategic directions have been identified under the categories of advancing public awareness, increasing knowledge, and strengthening partnerships (to maximize conservation efforts). Also included in the draft Strategy is a goal to continue to improve and develop policy approaches as opportunities arise, in order to build an effective policy foundation to conserve and stop the net loss of wetlands.

Staff has focused the proposed NEC response to the ER posting on the Strategy’s stated goal of developing policy approaches and improving policy tools to protect, restore and enhance Ontario’s wetlands, given that the NEP Program and Plan is well positioned to contribute to achieving these goals through the strengthened policies recommended as part of the Co-ordinated Plan Review, and given the NEC’s interest in the emerging topic of biodiversity offsetting that is identified as being a policy approach to be explored in the Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission endorse the letter signed by the Chair as the Niagara Escarpment Commissions response to the Environmental Registry posting Draft: A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030.

Note: Lisa Grbinicek, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.
“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation”.

Motion carried

DISCUSSION:

The Commission expressed grave concern that the wetlands could be lost while the Strategy and legislation respecting wetlands is under review and that creating new wetlands (compensation or offsetting approach), is not compliant with the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

C4 SUB #9601

Re: STAFF REPORT
GTA West Review

BACKGROUND:

The Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) has participated in the Environmental Assessment for the proposed GTA West corridor. In December 2016 the Ministry of Transportation suspended its work on the Environmental Assessment and established an Advisory Panel to undertake a review of the work done since 2007 and to conduct a strategic assessment of the potential alternative approaches to meeting future transportation demand and infrastructure needs for passenger and goods movement in the GTA West corridor. The NEC was invited to submit comments to the Advisory Panel by November 11, 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Niagara Escarpment Commission endorse the attached letter regarding the GTA West Corridor Review.

Note: Nancy Mott, NEC Senior Strategic Advisor, presented and answered questions.

“That the Commission accept the staff recommendation”.

Motion carried
NOTE: Staff advised that the environmental assessment was suspended in December 2015 and that much of the area being considered for the future transportation corridor is outside of the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area. The comments sent to the Panel recommend that this remain the case.

INFORMATION REPORTS – G Package

M775R17/11-2016

Moved By: Greig
Seconded By: Elgar

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

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION:

Staff noted that a plan amendment application is expected for S/T/2013-2014/9152 (reconstruction of Side roads 26 and 27) as the redesign was determined to extend into wetlands.

Staff noted a park management plan for the Badlands is in progress.

The Commission inquired why there have been no plan amendment decisions recently. Staff noted it was likely due to the Coordinated Plan Review process.

The Commission reviewed the Information Report regarding Grey County’s Natural Heritage System Study and use of “mega patches” to provide general linkages may not effectively protect the biodiversity inherent in the landscape.

The Director attended an Inaugural Unveiling and Dedication of the Six Nationas and Native Allies Commemorative Memorial at Queenston Heights Park on October 2, 2016 that included a ceremonial burying of weapons of war under the Tree of Peace, and celebration of peace and friendship with music at the bandshell.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair announced the resignation of Commission Miller, and thanked her for her contributions to the Commission for the last several years. Commissioner Miller’s resignation is effective November 18, 2016.
ADJOURNMENT

M775R18/10-2016  
Moved By: Miller

“That this meeting be adjourned.”

Motion Carried

Time of Adjournment: 3:45 p.m.

__________________________________________
Don Scott
Chair