

Public Information Meeting

September 7, 2016. 5:00 pm

City Hall, Port Colborne

Firelanes Ownership and Maintenance

The City of Port Colborne has undertaken title searches on all (29) designated firelanes within their Municipal boundary, as a result of an enquiry to the City regarding ownership of a firelane. In consultation with the City Solicitor on the matter and on completion of title searches of the properties, the ownership by the City of six designated firelanes has been confirmed as follows:

#4 known as Beverly Road	Plan 818
#7 known as Ash Street	Plan 823
#8 known as Ashland Avenue	Plan 798 and 816
#9 known as Elm Street	Plan 823
#22 known as Maple Grove	Plan 47 NKA 806
#23 known as Woodland	Plan 47 NKA 806

We have posted maps of the firelanes in the Committee Room with overlays of the original registered plans for the subdivisions.

Based on the title information and the fact of the municipal ownership, the City intends to undertake certain works on the laneways which may impact on your property, in order to ensure the laneways meet certain minimum standards and are properly signed. The adopted standard would ensure that these laneways be maintained in good repair, be free of obstructions, be properly signed for traffic control and clear of snow to a defined standard. (Typically 6 inches maximum)

In Summary:

- The Municipality owns the six firelanes.
- While the firelanes are not “public highways” for the purposes of the Municipal Act, the Municipality has obligations, as the property owner, to ensure that the requirements with respect to the Fire Route Bylaw are met.

In order to provide notice of the title search results, proposed works and to discuss options that may impact your property, the City has convened this Public Information Meeting. Possible options for consideration include:

Suggested Options

- Consider their laneway to remain private with transfer back from the Municipality, giving property owner's exclusive use of the property.
- Provide the residents with an option for the Municipality to upgrade the laneway to an acceptable minimum standard for their assumption as a private firelane.
- Consensus on having the Municipality maintain the laneway to an adopted Minimum Maintenance Standard yet to be determined.
- Any other suggested options for consideration.

As a registered owner on the subject lands, you have been invited to provide input to the issue either by your attendance at this meeting or by making submission to the email address provided. Comment sheets are available to you at this meeting and we encourage everyone to submit comments either by the comment sheets or by submitting email comments to me. We have had several calls and emails to date from the firelanes residents and will attempt to keep everyone informed on the issue as we move forward.

Email: **ronhanson@portcolborne.ca**

We will be posting information on the City website regarding this issue and the Council Report and agenda will be posted prior to the Council Meeting anticipated for October. Staff will compile all comments and suggestions into the Council Report and Council will deliberate the issue and make any final decisions on the report at that meeting.

Following this brief presentation on the issue, we will open the floor to comments.

Preface: We are not here to discuss waste collection issues or parking issues on Pleasant Beach Road, as these items are being dealt with separately by Council, City Staff and the Region of Niagara Staff. Waste collection at the current set out points or curbside collection will continue and will not be impacted by the ownership issue.

Please give your name and current address on the firelane when commenting:

Comments: