

Status of Town *Planning Act* & *Drainage Act* matters

***Planning Act* Applications**

Since the declaration of a state of emergency, Planning & Building Services has continued to accept *Planning Act* applications. Those applications that do not require public consultation (Site Plan Control) have been processed in the same manner they were prior to COVID-19 and have been brought forward for Council approval at Regular Council Meetings. Those applications that require public consultation (i.e. Official Plan/Zoning By-law Amendments) have been reviewed/processed to the point where a public meeting would be required under the *Planning Act* for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to make representations in respect of the proposal. These applications have not been brought to a public meeting as a result of the declared emergency and associated physical distancing protocols. Once again, the one exception is that the Town has recommenced the holding of Committee of Adjustment meetings in order to hear public input and render decisions in relation to minor variance and severance applications.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic period, the Town received a submission of a Zoning By-law Amendment application and a second application for Zoning By-law Amendment is anticipated by Town Administration in the near future. In addition, a zoning housekeeping amendment is proposed for public consideration along with a request from the County of Essex to hold a public meeting on its behalf in relation to a condominium application. On-going public enquiries reveal that there is an interest in the community to return to the full spectrum of processing all *Planning Act* applications, including the holding of public meetings electronically.

***Drainage Act* Reports**

Since the declaration of a state of emergency, Public Works & Environmental Services has continued to accept drainage requests and proceed with projects previously approved under the *Drainage Act*. Those requests and projects which do not require public consultation, such as drain maintenance projects and previously considered reports, have continued in the same manner as they were prior to COVID-19. Those projects that require further public consultation, such as site meetings, public information centre meetings, and consideration meetings, have been reviewed and processed up to the point where a public meeting would be required under the *Drainage Act*. These requests and projects have not been brought to a public meeting as a result of the declared emergency and associated physical distancing protocols.

Currently, the Town has three reports on file awaiting consideration, one awaiting a public information centre, and two awaiting site meetings.