

Minutes from meeting of April

Meeting held April 30, 2019 at the Dundas Public Library

Present: Jeanne Norris, Scott Munro, James Jennings, Carol Moffatt, David Moffatt, Bob James. Michelle Chin, Tim Leslie, Jim Sweetman

Bob began by talking about the desire of the Dundas Works community, through the vote held at the pot-luck supper, to work further on issues of development. As well, the Secondary Plan was likely coming, and this would give us a chance to get out ahead of the City's Planning Department, and be ready when they begin the process, rather than just reacting to their ideas.

Tim reported that the final "Design Guidelines" report was "imminent", and we recognized that this was an important preliminary to the Secondary Plan.

Jim had talked with Alissa Mahood from the City's Planning Department that morning, and he reported from that meeting. It appears that they are overwhelmed with plans for the Waterdown and Elfrida area and said that Dundas is a much lower priority. Also, Jim mentioned that they do not have a definition of what constitutes the "nodes" or the "corridors" for Dundas.

In our discussion we agreed that our efforts would encompass the following concerns among others...

We need to keep in mind the flood plain, and its impact on the City's planning in Dundas.

Transportation needs and existing/future developments are important as well.

The idea of "development in character" was raised and discussed.

We agreed that it was important to improve the streets for pedestrians and bicyclists, not just cars, with an integrated design strategy.

There was discussion about the meaning of "character" and how that translates into materials, colours, etc.

David and Carol suggested that one of the overarching concerns is that there is a recognition that the Dundas Valley is a unique ecosystem unrivalled anywhere, and that we need to develop it with a conscious effort to protect and enhance this environment for future generations. There is a need to identify the natural and environmental utilities that help us survive, thrive and work in the town. We had a bit fair bit of discussion about making a "greener" Dundas, both in form (more vegetation) and philosophy—as needed for the 21st Century. There was the question about how to develop while maintaining the green-ness of the town. There is a need to consider the environment in human-built forms.

Tim suggested that we should look at a "Form-Based Zoning" model for different parts of Dundas. This is a more restrictive form of zoning than is currently reflected in the Official Plan and the Hamilton Zoning Bylaw. Form Based Zoning is the gold standard for planning that is used to create sustainable "Complete Communities" that have a unique character and encourage walking, biking and strong attachments by their residents. These would involve the design of building volumes and a cohesive street presence for key areas of Dundas. (This type of zoning is currently being used to create a walkable city centre in Mississauga).

We all agreed that the goal of our efforts should be to integrate all of these concerns in a comprehensive "Citizen's Vision" for the entirety of Dundas, that is binding on all future development.

One suggestion was that that we create a series of overlaid maps with layers such as...

- 1) Public spaces and streets...
- 2) A network of walking routes and trails ...
- 3) A network of bike trails and routes...
- 4) Transit routes...
- 5) Building zoning requirements in different areas with some areas having specific "Form-Based Zoning" designs...
- 6) Natural areas and access points...
- 7) Flood plain ...
- 8) Environmentally sensitive and protected areas...
- 9) Other areas of concern to be determined

The goal of this "Citizen's Vision" would be to have it enshrined in the laws and bylaws governing future growth and development in Dundas. Working with the City, the Province, The Hamilton Conservation Authority, The Niagara Escarpment Commission and other relevant authorities, the Vision would be intended to be reflected in official documents such as...

- 1) Design Guidelines for Public Space (including the Hatt St and King St Design Guidelines)
- 2) A Secondary Plan (also reflected in Hamilton's Official Plan)
- 3) A Flood Plain Management Plan,
- 4) A Walking and Bike Network Plan
- 5) A Natural Areas Conservation Plan,
- 6) A Waste Management Plan, etc.

In order to ultimately to have this "Citizen's Vision for Dundas " implemented, James stressed the need to create a comprehensive marketing strategy that would emphasize certain aspects of the plan. The strategy would also consider the media we should use to be effective, (and how to use it) and the people that we should attract to our side. The message would need to be simplified so that it is irresistible, and would resonate with the wider community.

Finally, we agreed that getting together was very worthwhile, and that we would meet again around the end of May, (May 28 was a date subsequently set) At that meeting it was thought that we would suggest some ideas for the next roundtable in June.