



Planning & Development Executive Committee

Report

Date: 2012 November 5th
To: Mayor & Council
From: Rick Hallam, CBCO, CRBO, Supt. Planning & Development Div.
Subject: Fort Frances Community Garden re; Request for the Erection of Fencing and filling of water tanks

Council will recall that at their meeting held 2012 July 4th Council referred the above noted request to the PDEC for recommendation with input from the OFEC.

This matter was spoken to at the PDEC meeting held 2012 September 17th, at which time the PDEC received comment from attending members of the public which included for members of the FFCG group as well as some adjacent property owners. At that meeting PDEC deferred the matter until such time as staff could consult with the Town's insurance providers and look further into the matter.

PDEC have received comment from the Towns insurance provider, as well as OFEC, and have met with staff and discussed the issue.

Part of the discussion included the existence of the temporary fencing at the site, specifically whether or not it should be removed or allowed to remain with a condition that it have reflective tape affixed to it to alert those transiting the area at night. This area is used extensively during winter months by persons on snowmobiles. As only two members of the PDEC were physically present at the meeting, (*Councillor Tibbs joined the meeting by speaker phone*), Town Clerk Glenn Treftlin advised the committee that only those physically present could vote on an issue. The committee were divided with respect to the existing temporary fencing and have deferred to the Committee of the Whole to decide this matter.

As to the request made by the FFCG Group, the PDEC recommend that the request to erect permanent fencing at the site be denied at this time pending the outcome of the permanent re-zoning of the property. As Council is aware, there is a temporary use by-law in effect on this property which expires in August 2013.

As to the request made by the FFCG Group for the filling of their water tanks by Operations & Facilities Division, the PDEC recommend that this request be denied for reasons stated in the OFEC response to the request.



Respectfully Submitted,
Planning & Development Executive Committee,



R.Hallam, CBCO, CRBO
Superintendent
Planning & Development Division

Council approval of this report will: a) deny the request to fence the property at this time pending the outcome of the permanent re-zoning of the property and, b) deny the request to fill water tank reservoirs and, c) defer the matter of the removal of the temporary fencing to the Committee of the Whole for their decision.

RECOMMENDED
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DATE: 2012 Nov 5
DIV. MNG. R. Hallam
EXECUTIVE COMM. R. Hallam

Agenda Item # 2.3

JUL 13 2012

396 Scott St.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1G9
807-274-9827
knielson@nwhu.on.ca

Mayor & Council
Town of Fort Frances
322 Portage Ave.
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9

July 4, 2012

Re: Community Garden

On behalf of the Community Garden Committee, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Town of Fort Frances for their support and direction provided thus far. The garden has been enjoying a successful second season and would like to thank the Town of Fort Frances for allowing this project to happen. In respect to ensuring continued success of the Community Garden project, our Committee would like to propose the following items:

First of all, we recognize that our current land use agreement will end after next year. As the project has found much success to date, we do hope to see it continue in the future. In the interest of this, we would like to set the application process of extending the land use agreement in motion as soon as possible. We would like to request direction as to how to proceed in doing this.

Secondly, one of the frustrations that gardeners are dealing with is deer eating the growing crops. The deer have been in the garden already this year, helping themselves to various items. In an attempt to eradicate this concern, the Community Garden Committee would like to request permission from the Town of Fort Frances to erect 2 fences on the Lillie Ave Garden property (one around each garden area). The fences would be constructed of 6' galvanized wire secured to metal stakes. Additionally, 4 gates would be included in the fence to allow easy access to the garden plots. The described fence would be located on the property as shown on the enclosed site plan, marked as "A" and "B". Specific measurements of the fences would be as follows: Fence "A" 88.5' along Lillie Avenue (flush with the garden) x 162'; Fence "B" 80' along Lillie Avenue (flush with garden) x 143'. The described fences would allow room for water reservoirs to be placed next to the garden while still being enclosed in the fencing. We would like the town of Fort Frances to consider allowing these fences to be permanent for the duration of the land use agreement. Our committee would ensure that the fences are clearly marked and visible during the winter months. Allowing the fences to remain in place will prevent snowmobilers from driving through the garden plots in the winter and would also eliminate many hours of labour that would be involved with taking the fence down and re-constructing it in the future.

Finally, the Community Garden Committee is looking into possibilities to keep our water reservoirs filled at the garden. We have 6 water reservoirs for our gardeners to use to water their plots. We would like to request that the town consider filling these reservoirs once per week.

Agenda Item # 2.3

If the Town of Fort Frances requires any additional information or clarification regarding any of the above mentioned proposals, please contact Krista Nielson at 274-9827, or Megan Bale at 274-3131. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krista Nielson".

Krista Nielson
On behalf of the Community Garden Committee

Encl.

THE TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

August 15, 2012

Report To: Planning & Development Executive Committee

From: Operations & Facilities Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Letter Dated July 4, 2012 from Krista Nielson – Community Garden Committee



The letter dated July 4, 2012 from Krista Nielson was reviewed at the August 22, 2012 Operations & Facilities Executive Committee meeting. The Operations & Facilities Executive Committee was to provide input to the Planning & Development Executive Committee.

The Operations & Facilities Executive Committee provides the following comments;

- 1) **Erection of temporary fencing around the two gardens** - There is no concerns other than the community garden organization shall assume all liabilities should an accident occur as a result of the erected fence on the town property. Also the Town's insurance carrier and lawyer should be consulted to ensure no additional costs or liabilities will result to the Town as a result of erecting of the proposed fencing.
- 2) **The Supply of Equipment and Manpower to fill up 6 – 1 cubic meter water containers on a weekly basis** - Presently the Operations & Facilities Division has two pieces of equipment available to transport water and fill the 6 water containers at the garden site. The Parks water truck and the Public Works sanitary sewer flusher truck. Both of these pieces of equipment are well utilized through the growing season. Also there are costs associated with performing this task on a weekly basis. Also to supply manpower on a weekly basis is a major commitment where there are times during the summer work season where no manpower would be available to perform this task. As a result the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee does not support this request for in-kinds services.

In closing the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee is of the general opinion that the community garden is a voluntary based organization where the community gardeners utilized the Town property to grow products that benefits the gardeners. There should be no additional costs to the community as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Wiedenhoef, Chairman
Operations & Facilities Executive Committee



Agenda Item # 2.3

