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August 23, 2007

K. Smart Associates Limited Job No. 04-060

PLANNING REPORT NO. PR10-7
FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUMFRIES

Type of Application: Official Plan (the “OP”) Review – Housekeeping OP Amendment No. 11 (OPA)

Date of Hearing: August 27, 2007

Purpose of Report: To provide Council with the first draft copy of the housekeeping OPA for their information and review.

Effect of Report: To offer Council time to prepare for a discussion at its next meeting regarding the draft housekeeping OPA.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council receive Report No. PR10-07 for information and agree to discuss the draft housekeeping OPA at its next meeting.

INTRODUCTION:

Occasionally, deficiencies regarding the tools available in the Township’s OP for Council to appropriately plan the Township may become apparent to planners working for municipalities. In such instances, one means of remedying such deficiencies is to amend the OP by what is often referred to as a “housekeeping” OPA.

In this case, Council is in the midst of its 5-year review of the Township’s OP that it began in 2004 (the “OP Review”). So, this report explains the rationale for a separate housekeeping OPA within the context of the OP Review, discusses potential next steps, and includes the first draft copy of that housekeeping OPA.

HOUSEKEEPING OPA & THE OP REVIEW:

In 2004, the Township commenced what it believed at that time to be a typical 5-year OP Review. The OP Review was to take place in two stages:

1. a housekeeping OPA, and
2. a comprehensive amendment to update the OP.

Since then, Provincial initiatives took place that caused many municipalities (both regional and local), including the Township, to re-examine their official plan reviews. A number of significant changes and or new legislation was passed and given Royal Assent (e.g., Bill 26 and 51 changes to Planning Act, the new Places to Grow Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 13, the new Clean Water Act, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 22 [the “Clean Water Act”], etc.). Also, the Province approved new policy documents including the Provincial Policy Statement, 2005 (the “PPS”), and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 (the “Growth Plan”).

As a result of the Provincial initiatives, the Region of Waterloo review of the Regional Official Policies Plan (the “ROPP”) became the Region creating a draft new Waterloo Region Official Plan (the “ROP”). The Region is expected to release a draft ROP for public review in early 2008. Also, source water protection planning under the Clean Water Act is being examined by the conservation authorities, including the Grand River Conservation Authority (the “GRCA”). The meaning of these Regional and GRCA plans for the Township’s OP Review is still unclear, but might become better known in the coming months.

Therefore, the coming months may be an appropriate time for Council during the Township’s OP Review to consider a housekeeping OPA.

POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS FOR THE DRAFT HOUSEKEEPING OPA:

1. Council discussion and direction (including the option to do nothing, in which case the following potential next steps would not apply)
2. Regional (i.e., Approval Authority) Planning Staff Consultations
3. Agency Consultations
4. Council discussion and Direction (including the option to do nothing, in which case the following potential steps would not apply)
5. Notice of Public Open House / Public Open House / Ongoing Consultations with Township Council, Approval Authority & Agencies
6. Notice of Public Meeting / Public Meeting / Ongoing Consultations with Township Council, Approval Authority & Agencies

7. Council Consideration of Housekeeping OPA
8. Approval Authority Review

CONCLUSIONS:

We greatly appreciate Council's consideration of report PR10-07 and the enclosed first draft housekeeping OPA. There will be many opportunities for everyone to comment on this draft housekeeping OPA prior to Council's potential consideration of a final version. We look forward to working together with all parties to provide Council with all of the tools through the OP that it needs to best achieve proper planning for the Township.

Submitted by:

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