



Minutes
NECA Board Meeting – 19 March 2019
New Edinburgh House, 255 MacKay Street

Present: Ari Abonyi, Roslyn Butler, Natasha Cappon, Joe Chouinard, Matt DeWolfe, Sean Flynn, Christina Leadlay, Gail McEachern, Cindy Parkanyi

Absent: Dave Arnold, Ted Bennett,

Guests: Noor Ahmed, Marc Dorgeville (candidate for election for Councillor), Nicole Poitras, Diane Vaillancourt

1. Welcome, approval of minutes and agenda

Cindy welcomed everyone and introduced the guests. Once there was a quorum of Board members present, she asked for approval of the Agenda.

Joe Chouinard moved that the meeting Agenda be approved. Matt DeWolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Joe Chouinard moved that the Board minutes for Feb 2019 meeting, as revised by Cindy, be approved. Ari Abonyi seconded the motion. The motion carried with one abstention by a Board member who was absent in February.

2. Ward 13 Report:

As there is no Councillor, a brief report was emailed to Cindy from the Ward 13 office. She read this out to the meeting.

Beechwood and Springfield Road Construction: This summer, City of Ottawa will undertake construction on a section of Beechwood Avenue (Douglas Avenue to Springfield Road), as well as Springfield Road (between Beechwood and Rideau Terrace). The existing underground infrastructure dates to the 1920s and must be replaced because it has reached the end of its lifecycle.

The project is expected to start as early as May 2019 and is anticipated to be completed in autumn 2019. More information will be available at rideaurockcliffeward.ca and presented at a public open house organized by the City (residents and businesses will receive invitations):

Tuesday, April 9 – drop in anytime between 6 and 8 p.m. at Chartwell New Edinburgh Square, 35 Beechwood Ave.

The project includes:

- Replacement of the sanitary sewers on a short section of Beechwood Avenue (Douglas to Springfield)
- Replacement of the water mains along Springfield Road
- Installation of wider 1.8-metre sidewalks on the west side of Springfield Road from Rideau Terrace to Bertrand and on the east side from Bertrand to Beechwood

For the duration of the project, pedestrian access on Beechwood and Springfield will be maintained. Residents are encouraged to continue supporting our local businesses.

On Beechwood Avenue, vehicular traffic (including cyclists) will be detoured between Charlevoix to St. Charles. Local access to businesses will be maintained. For a two-week period in the summer, Beechwood Avenue will be completely closed from Springfield Road to Douglas Avenue. Impacted businesses and residents will be notified in advance of the exact dates of the closure.

Springfield Road will remain open to traffic, but there will be lane closures outside of rush hour when the watermain is being installed.

Transit route detours are in the process of being prepared and will be communicated to the community in advance of construction.

This construction is a continuation of the project that began on Beechwood last year. The work was divided over 2018 and 2019 to minimize the duration of the required road closure of Beechwood.

Spring flooding preparedness: Last year, we held an information session in New Edinburgh for residents who live within the floodplain of the Rideau River. Residents asked for the City to take the lead in creating a flooding preparedness plan for the neighbourhood. We are happy to report that a consultant is now working on a draft flooding preparedness document for New Edinburgh, which will be available for review and pilot implementation this spring in time for the “freshet” melt. Residents will be asked to provide feedback and participate in the pilot over the course of this spring and coming year before the plan is finalized. Staff from the City’s Emergency Preparedness Department to host another information session in New Edinburgh this spring, where you can learn more about this plan – watch for updates on this session.

Get involved in developing the plan for Ottawa’s future: What will Ottawa look like as it grows over the next century? How do we make sure that the City can keep pace and adapt to change in a way that makes Ottawa an inclusive, liveable and globally competitive city? We have an opportunity to prepare for the future with a brand new Official Plan: the strategic document that guides the City’s growth and development. The City has begun the process of consulting residents on their ideas for the future of our City. For more information about the new Official Plan consultations, visit ottawa.ca/NewOP.

3. Minto Bridges Signage

Overhead height restriction signs were erected over each access roadway to the Minto Bridges in November 2018. At the time NECA and then Councillor Tobi Nussbaum tried to stop the construction of these structures, without success. There had been no prior warning or consultation. Many concerned residents of New Edinburgh sent emails opposing these ugly signs. During a phone call with NECA President Cindy Parkanyi, Mayor Jim Watson agreed that the signs were ugly, but he said that the City had no choice as they were required by the Ontario legislation.

Two former NECA Board members, Sarah Anson-Cartwright and Noor Ahmed checked the traffic law covering such signage requirements. It turns out that the “Ontario Traffic Manual” states that any bridge under 4.1m in height (the Minto Bridges are 3.4m high) must have warning signs.

However, The Ontario Traffic Manual is a guidance document only and not the law. It is, in effect, a risk analysis document. Noor noted that the bridges already have several signs

noting the height of the bridges, weight restrictions, and the narrowing of the roadway on the approach roadways.

He said that the Mayor has the complete ability to override any other recommendation by engineers or lawyers on this matter since it is not in fact the law.

Noor has agreed to draft (Cindy to edit) a letter to Mayor Watson, telling him that the City can take the risk and remove these unnecessary signage structures. He will point out that these bridges are heritage structures. The excessive signage detracts from their handsome appearance and the ambience of the setting.

NECA will send copies to our MPP Nathalie DesRosiers and to Tobi Nussbaum, who is chairman of the NCC (the NCC owns the Minto Bridges). The City Councillors of other wards will also be copied.

It may also be a good idea to have a firm idea of what we do want for the approach roads to these Minto Bridges. Some ideas suggested were - remove the overhead structure, replace it with something matching the Rideau Hall fencing, refine the warning signs on the roadside, ban truck traffic so the question doesn't arise.

4. Ward Election:

There will be two All Candidates forums. One in Overbrook to be held at the Overbrook Community Centre on March 29, 2019, and one at the Rockcliffe Park Public School on the April 2 organized by Rockcliffe Park, Lindenlea and New Edinburgh.

All 17 candidates will be present at these meetings and will have 3 min. each to introduce themselves. Then they will break into individual stations where residents can talk/question those candidates which interest them. Because of such a large field of candidates Ann Davis, NECA's organizing representative, will need more volunteer helpers to make this happen – call her.

There will also be 8 of these candidates participating in the environment discussion to be held on the April 8 at the Unitarian Church on McArthur Ave.

Rogers television has a programme that gives each candidate 3 minutes to introduce themselves and it is on line.

There was some discussion on ways to improve local voter turnout for elections.

5. CCMC: Cindy reported

The next CCMC meeting will be held on 03 April. There are no new issues to report at present.

6. Committee Reports:

Traffic and Safety: Joe Chouinard reported that the traffic counts done in our neighbourhood last fall were messed up/missing, so they will be done again this spring.

Springfield will be dug up this summer for sewer and water pipe renewal. Expect slow traffic and detours.

Beechwood Development: Ari Abonyi reported that four companies are now making competing bids for the former Lauzon properties on Beechwood.

A group wants to set up “Social Impact Investing” business and issue Community Bonds to encourage small businesses and “Mom and Pop” stores to locate along beechwood, especially in the big and shiny new buildings that are being constructed.

There is a rumour that the government is showing renewed interest in a bridge over the Ottawa River to the east of downtown. Mayor Watson had said a firm “No” to the proposed Kettle Island Bridge project a few years ago.

Park Vision: Nicole Poitras reported that George Anderson has joined with her and Victoria on the Park Vision working group. She said that 3 more residents also want to join the group.

They have planned a public meeting in June. They want to have an article about this in the June edition of the *New Edinburgh News*.

They have found a contact – Sylvie who works for the NCC and had a short telephone meeting with her. She is interested in the rehabilitation of the disturbed NCC land and especially would like to have more trees planted. She offered to contact the strategic and visioning group of the NCC on our behalf.

Sylvie said that she can only work with the NCC land and that the patchwork of multiple jurisdiction patches of land in New Edinburgh/Stanley park presents a challenge.

Victoria has spoken to Chris Straka about his work on the routing of the bicycle path through the park when it is rehabilitated. There were no details.

7. Community Group Updates:

Nectar: Sean Flynn reported that the LPat hearing for the appeal of the re-development of New Edinburgh House will not be until May 23. This is a problem because the deadline for the current buyer is May 30, and it may not be possible to conclude the business of the sale of the property.

CCC: Matt DeWolfe reported that the skating season is finished (ended in early March).

There will be a Bike Rodeo and sale of used bicycles in early May. It will be a much bigger event this year. On Saturday, May 11 there will be the annual flower sale.

At the end of May, they will organize another very successful “cheering station” for the Ottawa Marathon. This will be followed by a family BBQ.

8. Other Business:

There was no other business.

9. Next NECA Meeting / Adjourn

The next NECA Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

At 9:12 p.m. Joe Chouinard moved, seconded by Sean Flynn, that this meeting be adjourned. Carried.