

Talpines.ca

Talpines POA September 2020 newsletter

Happy Labour Day! edition



Fall is here, and we have wrapped up our water testing program, but work continued this week on our Pine Street Beach beautification project. Directors and members met at the beach to properly install the garden edging with landscape fabric and screening. Our gardens look great!

Special thanks to Barry and Sue Dougherty who also assisted in filling up some bad patches with topsoil donated by Tay Township, and we seeded those spots with clover to provide more green space.

Township news

The Mayor and Council have asked staff for a comprehensive report on short term rentals (AirBNBs) and a plan for seeking resident and owner input. Several people from across the Township wrote letters, and three residents from Victoria Harbour spoke to Council and wrote letters complaining of noise and disruption.

Many believe that historical bed and breakfast type establishments with someone on site are good, but unregulated numbers of people in houses located in residential areas on short stays should be stopped.

Township is launching a **survey**— please check tay.ca this month to have your say. You can also make written submissions, or send an email to the Mayor and Council on the issue.

TINY HOMES

In a somewhat related issue, our neighbour Chuck filed a petition with Council, signed by more than 1,000 people, supporting his Tiny Home venture.

Chuck is a talented builder who has created a Tiny Home which can house two adults or a very small family. It uses leading-edge technology, and is a small, self contained unit that he and his business partner are hoping to sell.

Tiny homes are permitted by the province and neighbouring townships as potential answers to homelessness and affordable housing, and as “senior suites” allowing our seniors both proximity and independence. But our Tay bylaws have not been updated, and are currently under review. Chuck lives on site, and prospective buyers are allowed to stay for a short term in order to assess the Tiny Home for future purchase. Despite this, staff continue to assert that Chuck’s Tiny Home is not a Tiny Home, and are taking him to court. Stay tuned!

WASTEWATER ISSUES CONTINUE IN VICTORIA HARBOUR

The Mayor and Council have put a hold on proceeding with the planned 9 million dollar upgrade to the Harbour’s wastewater treatment plant until an independent audit can be conducted to determine the best way forward.

Apparently, the expensive upgrade would provide only very little new capacity for future development in Victoria Harbour and may not be money well spent. Council has asked for a comprehensive but clear report showing options and cost. We eagerly await the report.

DELEGATION TO COUNCIL

Our wonderful library is offering many services despite Covid limitations. Also, Talpines is still asking Council to prioritize and establish a community hub including the library here in Waubaushene, as part of its Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan process is underway. We will be making a delegation to Council during budget deliberations, as we have done for the last couple of years, and are asking for your input. What do you want us to say to Council? Let us know at taytalpines@gmail.com.

Here's hoping you are staying safe. We are feeling grateful to be in such a beautiful place as the trees begin to turn. All the best on behalf of the Directors of Talpines POA.

Victoria Reaume, President