

Meeting Minutes

AD-HOC Committee for Truck Traffic Concerns

Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers

Date: Thursday, May 10, 2018, 10:00am

Committee members in attendance:

Councillor Osborne, Councillor Craigmile, Mayor Strathdee

Staff in attendance:

Brent Kittmer, Morgan Dykstra, Jed Kelly, Jenna McCartney

Members of the public in attendance:

Lorne Eedy (CCAHTT member), Dan Schneider (CCAHTT member), Paul Dunseith (CCAHTT member)

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Strathdee called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

2.0 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Amendments and approval to the agenda

Moved By: Councillor Craigmile

Seconded By: Councillor Osborne

THAT the May 8, 2018 Ad-Hoc Committee for Truck Traffic agenda be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

4.0 Discussion Items

4.1 Downtown Truck Parking Ban

B. Kittmer noted that businesses were equally split in supporting a downtown truck parking ban during last year's survey. The proposed Parking and Traffic By-law prohibits trucks from parking on any streets or in any municipal facility parking lot. The proposed by-law will be forwarded to Council in the near future for consideration.

4.2 Turn Restrictions in the Downtown Core

B. Kittmer stated that the recommendation of the CCAHTT members was brought forward to Strategic Priorities Committee as part of the preliminary Traffic and Parking By-law. In addition St. Marys Cement was consulted regarding the implications of the proposed prohibition. Council did not provide direction to staff to further pursue this policy.

D. Schneider sought clarification of how it is determined that nothing further would be investigated. CCAHTT members feel strongly that this is an important issue and requested that staff conduct further research on this matter.

CCAHTT members suggested that with time the ban would become widely known, and information could guide a GPS that there are no turns on Queen St. while headed north on Water Street so as to redirect trucks to Park Street.

D. Schneider suggested that there could be a trial of restricted turns on Queen Street and then staff would review the results.

B. Kittmer responded to Mr. Schneider that the recommendation from CCAHTT regarding restricted turns was brought forward to the Strategic Priorities Committee within a comprehensive staff report. Mr. Kittmer prefers not to conduct a trial unless detailed research of unintended consequences is completed ahead of time as many variables would be present. Rather, Mr. Kittmer noted remedies from local trucking companies would be a good first step.

Councillor Osborne stated that if Council wishes to pursue a review on restricting turns within the downtown, it should consider gathering feedback through a traffic engineer's report.

L. Eedy suggested that enforcement of traffic violations needs to ensue. Mr. Eedy is concerned about traffic that is not local to St. Marys. Further, on behalf of the CCAHTT, a recommendation to put a load limit on the Church Street bridge and put an axle restriction on Victoria Bridge should be considered by Council.

D. Schnieder asked if the Town could introduce incentives to trucks to take alternative routes.

Mayor Strathdee stated that upon the implementation of the new policing service provider in November, there is an anticipation of a proactive approach to by-law enforcement.

Mayor Strathdee stated that this Council does not want to limit local businesses abilities to operate in this Town.

4.3 Tonne Restrictions on Heritage Bridges

B. Kittmer noted that this initiative has not been supported by Council at this time.

Members of the CCAHTT encouraged Council to seek out a second opinion from another engineering firm.

4.4 Installation of "No Engine Brakes" Signs

Jed Kelly noted that signs will be posted shortly.

4.5 Reconsideration of External to External Truck Traffic Ban

B. Kittmer confirmed that this initiative remained not supported by Council at this time.

4.6 Speed Rada Data Summary since December 2017

J. Kelly will emailed the data to the CCAHTT members in the near future.

4.7 Status of Police Change Over

B. Kittmer confirmed the implementation date has been officially announced as November 5, 2018.

4.8 Spring Pedestrian and Truck Traffic Counts

J. Kelly reported that the downtown count will be conducted by Traffic Solutions this summer. Staff are looking into the possibility of more formalized pedestrian crossing at DCVI. J. Kelly updated the committee on the proposed changes to the intersection at Queen Street East and Church Street.

4.9 Results of CCAHTT Survey of Downtown

D. Schneider presented a summary of the CCAHTT survey of downtown owners. There were 25 respondents, with the results indicating that downtown property owners are concerned about heavy truck traffic and think the Town should do more. D. Schneider will send the raw survey results. A second survey is planned for August or September of 2018..

4.10 CCAHTT Submission on Official Plan

CCAHTT members reported they have provided feedback to the Town's Planner during the Official Plan review. B. Kittmer confirmed the plan is for the Official Plan review to be completed in 2018.

5.0 Next Meeting

L. Eedy stated that the CCAHTT members were not anticipating a further meeting prior to the 2018 Municipal Election. Mayor Strathdee suggested that the group bring a delegation before council regarding the survey results.

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Strathdee adjourned the meeting at 11:31am.