



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

## Corporate Report

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**Report from** Planning & Development Services, Implementation

**Date of Report:** November 13, 2012      **Date of Meeting:** November 26 2012

**Report Number:** PDS-649-2012      **File:** 60.35.11 Vol. C

**Subject:** Public Input Initiatives for the New Zoning By-law

### Recommendation

That Council receive for information the report from Planning and Development Services, dated November 13, 2012, regarding public input initiatives for presenting the new draft comprehensive zoning by-law. FORTHWITH

### Background

Planning and Development Services staff are preparing a new zoning by-law to replace the 11 different zoning by-laws currently in effect in the City. A draft of the zoning by-law will be presented to Council in March 2013.

### Report

Public input is vital and valuable to the drafting of a new zoning by-law. Staff consider public input *prior to* the completion of a draft zoning by-law a valuable exercise to assess public concerns and address those matters as early in the process as possible. To that end, staff is undertaking a number of initiatives to engage the public, generate discussion and increase the awareness and understanding of zoning issues by both staff and the public. A number of social media and publication releases together with postings on the City's website are intended in the next few weeks. Examples include a Facebook page, a communications piece in the December issue of the Garden City Current and postings on the City's website designed to trigger public engagement. Staff will use the public comments and discussion to guide the drafting of the zoning by-law, to be presented to Council in March 2013.

After the draft of the zoning by-law has been completed and presented to Council, a series of neighborhood open houses are scheduled for Spring 2013 to present and discuss the draft zoning by-law with the public. A second round of neighbourhood open houses is scheduled for the fall of 2013 to report back to the public on the concerns raised earlier and to address any outstanding matters. The legislated public meeting required under the Planning Act is intended for October, 2013 and subsequent adoption by Council before the end of the year.

## **Financial Implications**

Internal staff resources are to be used in launching these initiatives. Any additional costs will be absorbed by funds already approved by Council for the new zoning by-law.

## **Conclusion**

The engagement of the public early in the drafting on a new zoning by-law is critical to successfully identifying areas of public concern. The upcoming public engagement opportunities are intended to provide guidance to staff *prior to* finalizing various permissions and regulations in the new zoning by-law.

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