

TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE MEETING

May 19, 2021

Meeting Room
ZOOM MEETING
REVISED MINUTES

Members Present:

D. McLeod (Chair)
F. Campion
B. Green
T. Stephens
J. Cronshaw
M. Slade
J. Tosta
A. Allan

L. Gagnon
K. Ashbridge
R. Fordyce (until 5:05 p.m.)
A. Parrotta (4:13 p.m.)
R. Huckla
T. Woronchuk

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1. **Call to Order** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
 2. **Chair's Opening Remarks**
 3. **Approval of minutes** – September 16, 2020

Moved by Mayor Campion

THAT the minutes of September 16, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

4. **Business arising from previous meeting**
 - On-site testing at Niagara College did not proceed.
 - Waste Management, Niagara Region – Garbage Collection, new contract transitioned in October 2020:
 - Niagara Waste App has been well received by residents.
 - Increase in the number of organics and recycling, decrease and overall garbage.
 - Staff are in the process of informing the students.
5. **Feedback from all member groups: Niagara College, Police Services, Niagara Region, Fire and Emergency Services and Public Representatives – Update on current challenges, successes and priorities moving forward.**

Niagara College – 3,800 students currently and working closely with public health to ensure the health and safety of staff and students.

- Communications have been sent to NC staff encouraging them to get the vaccine.
- Implement extensive measures to limit exposure and transition of COVID 19:
 - Mandatory masks,

- Increased personal protective equipment (PPE),
- Modified space for spacing for staff and students.

Niagara College is anticipating more students to return in person this fall.

Student wellness is a concern given the stressors associated with the pandemic, so they have made some new and improved changes to their health and wellness services.

The status of the Good Neighbour Guide will be discussed at a future meeting.

Police Services – no representation present – Tara Stephens to connect to ensure NRP representation is present at the next scheduled meeting.

Fire and Emergency Services – Maintaining contact with Niagara College. Engaging the students with social media platforms and have been working with the SAC students. A number of different languages have been used for the communications, and making connections with the international students and ensuring communications regarding fire safety are understood by the students.

Public Representatives:

James and Mark – An additional by-law enforcement officer will be starting within the next few weeks. By-law enforcement are assisting with some COVID matters. Issues with residents living in vacant buildings and trailers.

Jack Tosta – A large number of developments within the municipality. Staff are anticipating a recording breaking year (2020) for building permits. Anticipating another record breaking year for 2021.

Working with the Fire Prevention Office for permits as well.

Community Representative Comments:

- A lot of improvements around the Niagara College area due to less students in the area.
- Residents appreciate all the online updates on what is happening in the municipality.
- Residents concerns with COVID 19 in the future.
- Resident concerns regarding garbage and reporting for residents. Ways to contact Niagara Region Waste Collection.

6. **Fall re-start initiatives from all member groups.**

Niagara College

- Awaiting Provincial Orders and restrictions to be communicated.
- Increase in services and enrollment moving into the fall term. Will continue to implement the guidelines from the Province.

Fire and Emergency Services

- More focus on fire safety messaging with the students leading up to the fall re-start using social media and website.
- Links through Niagara College.
- On-site campus participant for the upcoming terms.

By-law Enforcement

- Started a social media campaign regarding being a good neighbour, it has been received well by the community and will continue into the fall.

Additional Comments from members

- Concerns from residents when the Niagara Regional Police does not respond to complaints from residents.
- More challenges regarding the property standards and long grass concerns.

7. **Areas of assistance needed from other group members and/or City of Welland – Nil**

8. **New Business:**

- Suggestion regarding being proactive for 2022 – sending communications and/or mail out to residents regarding by-law and property standard information.

9. **Topics for next meeting and meeting date.**

- Enhanced NRP presence during move in weekends at Niagara College.
- Next meeting date to be determined by the Chair.

10. **Chair's closing remarks.**

11. **Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.**