



## LONG POINT BEACH PUBLIC ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 20, 2011

The following are the Minutes of the Long Point Beach Public Access Advisory Committee Meeting held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at 3 p.m. at the County Adm Building, 50 Colborne St., S., Simcoe, Ontario – Committee Room "A".

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betty Chanyi, Councillor (Chair)  
Roger Geysens, Councillor  
Darlene Homeniuk, Member-at-Large  
Lisa Livingston, Member-at-Large  
Ed DuDomaine, Long Point Ratepayers' Association Rep.  
Bill Allman, Resident of Long Point  
Brian Craig, Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation Rep.  
Alan Freeman, Long Point Country Chamber of Commerce Rep.  
Heather Surette, Long Point Region Conservation Authority Rep.  
Sherry Pineo, Ministry of Natural Resources, Representative  
Mike Rigby for Zvonko Horvat, OPP Representative  
Dennis Travale, Mayor, ex-officio.  
County Staff:  
Frank Sams, Community Services Department  
Bill Cridland, Public Works & Environmental Services Dept.  
Chris Baird, Planning & Economic Development Dept.  
Keith Robicheau, County Manager  
Colleen Coons (Recorder).

**MEMBERS ABSENT/REGRETS:** Jackie Baker, Member-at-Large  
Stefanie Carroll, Member-at-Large

**ALSO PRESENT:** Eight Observers

1. **DISCLOSURE OF A PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None reported.

2. **ADOPTION/CORRECTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Inaugural meeting.

3. **PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS**

None.

4. **GENERAL BUSINESS/REPORTS**

A) **Election of Chairperson**

Calls for nominations for Chairperson:

**MOTION:** moved by: Councillor Geysens seconded by: Darlene Homeniuk  
*That Councillor Chanyi be nominated as Chairperson of the Long Point Beach Public Access Advisory Committee.*

Called for further nominations three times. No further nominations.

**CARRIED**

B) **Election of Vice Chair**

Calls for nominations for Vice Chair:

**MOTION:** moved by: Bill Allman seconded by: Brian Craig  
*That Al Freeman be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Long Point Beach Public Access Advisory Committee.*

**MOTION:** moved by: Lisa Livingston seconded by: Darlene Homeniuk  
*That Ed DuDomaine be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Long Point Beach Public Access Advisory Committee.*

Called for further nominations three times. No further nominations.

The ballots were counted and Al Freeman was elected as Vice Chair of the Long Point Beach Public Access Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

C) **Election of Recording Secretary**

Lisa Livingston and Darlene Homeniuk will share the duty of recording secretary. Colleen Coons will assist with circulation of the agendas and minutes.

D) **Background Information**

County Departments:

Planning and Economic Development Department (PED) – Chris Baird

Chris Baird gave an explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the Planning and Ec. Dev. Department.

- He spoke about tourism in the Long Point area and how PED promotes the area.
- This area is an economical advantage for visitors.
- Parking is handled by the by-law enforcement division, which is currently available Monday to Friday, 8:30-4:30. Increased concerns started approximately 2 years ago.
- PED coordinates tourist visits with the Long Point Provincial Park.
- Many parking violations have occurred.
- Experiencing issues with public washrooms, parking on private property, leaving garbage, etc.

- Tried to expand parking to the north side of Highway 59 (100-125 parking spaces increased).
- Number of parking signs increased.
- Public access definition needs to be reviewed as a group
- Public Beach Access signs installed
- There are no signs directing visitors from the beach back to the parking
- How does EMS access the beach area, if there is an incident
- Number of parking tags has increased
- Some improvement with County efforts
- Chris will be a staff resource for the committee

Chris was asked for information on parking ticket statistics and the process. He will present this at the next meeting.

He noted that the County has a comprehensive parking by-law, which includes the entire County. Some parking restrictions were recently introduced and included in the by-law that is to be ratified Oct. 25/11. It was noted that OPP issue parking tickets as well.

Public Works and Environmental Services (PW&ES) - Bill Cridland

- Bill noted that road maintenance and road construction is within the domain of PW&ES
- They try to provide as cost effective services as possible
- Working together with Long Point Provincial Park is an advantage
- He's found that while some problems are eliminated, other issues arise
- Erie Blvd from Hastings to the park is to be paved in 2013.

The Mayor sought clarification on road allowances. It was noted that the Geographic Information System (GIS) is available and would show the road allowance.

Community Services Department (CSD) - Frank Sams

- CSD is responsible for the garbage cans and washrooms at Long Point
- Staff have added 20 garbage containers and 8 portables plus wash stations
- They have increased pick-up
- They have investigated the best times to pick up garbage
- They are open to more suggestions or how to make it better

Lisa Livingston sought clarification on cleaning up litter in the marsh. It was noted that this is a roads issues and that one clean up has occurred.

Frank Sams was asked for clarification on the garbage pick-up dates/ times and he will bring the schedule to the next meeting.

Sherry Pineo sought clarification on the location of the port-a-potties. Regular garbage pick-up is Monday morning.

The Mayor noted that the dissemination of summer students being reviewed. Shift to where the need is for the student – garbage, enforcement.

Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) – Heather Surette

– Heather reviewed the authority's 5 principles used to review any development proposed for the area, i.e. the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land will not be affected by the development.

Lisa Livingston sought clarification on lake levels, evacuation plans and the number people that are allowed into Long Point.

Keith Robicheau spoke to the evacuation plans. There is a County-wide Emergency Control Group that responds to major disasters within the County. The Emergency Response Plan is currently being revised.

Al Freeman requested information on the number of people travelling to Long Point. Bill Cridland will bring these statistics to the next meeting.

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) - Sherry Pineo

- Sherry noted that the MNR manages the beach and parts of the marsh.
- Their main objective is to protect the natural heritage values and that the property is being taken care of.
- Speaking on behalf of the Long Point Provincial Park (LPPP) she noted that the park fees cannot be changed as it's a provincial rate (\$14 per car). Seasonal passes are available. The park hires staff and builds washrooms – they are on crown land with its own legislation. Not the same opportunities on crown land.
- She aware of the park closing twice due to it being full.
- She has one Senior Land's Technician.
- Ontario Parks have students.

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) – Mike Rigby

- Mike Rigby noted that OPP respond to calls but have to prioritize.
- OPP is interested in assisting to make things better.
- He suggested towing vehicles might be effective deterrent.
- Last summer OPP had an officer on an all-terrain vehicle on the beach– but not many infractions were issued.

Long Point World Biosphere (LPWB) – Brian Craig

No legislative authority – no comment.

Bill Cridland – will bring the original plan of subdivision to the next meeting.

**E) Review Terms of Reference**

It was noted that the Committee's purpose is to provide advice and recommendations to Council.

Target date for the Committee's final report or recommendations has been set for January 17, 2012 to accommodate the County's budget.

Keith suggested that items of financial impact should be dealt with, within this time frame, even if other issues need to be set aside and dealt with later.

He noted that the mandate of the committee is not exhaustive and other issues may be introduced as well. He also reviewed the rules of order and pecuniary interest paragraph and the remainder of the terms of reference.

Next meeting dates will be posted to the County's website.

Al Freeman – teleconferencing should be made available – currently not permissible. Clerk's department to be questioned. If unavailable – communications via letter or memo are permissible.

Sherry Pineo – MNR noted if washrooms or facilities are to be suggested for the beach, it would become more than a financial issue and would require public notification and input to approve any type of structure.

Sherry was asked to supply copies of the various maps for the committee, i.e showing crown land, fisheries, etc.

Darlene Homeniuk – important to determine people's deeds and access rights. Need to look at the various aspects and various types of beaches. Owners need to be able to determine what they own and the remainder is crown land – different types of land in the area.

Keith Robicheau – may be important to bringing in legal advice but nothing that is a civil issue, i.e. between two neighbours.

Ed DuDomaine– suggested the committee establish some guiding principles and he proposed the committee hold a debate to establish guiding principles. (Agenda item for next meeting).

**F) Examine**

**a) Roles of each of the stakeholders of Long Point.**

Stakeholders include: Council, MNR, Chamber, Non ratepayer cottage owners, Ratepayers cottage owner, OPP, Biosphere, Others. (Issues identified above.) Bill Allman noted that he would like to protect the beach for everyone's use.

**b) Concerns and Issues.**

Two safety issues were noted:

- Emergency Services access and egress of the beach
- Children crossing the road

It was noted that overall, committee members don't object to people being on the beach – it's when they are on the beach, how they conduct themselves and accessing the beach, which is the concern.

**c) What has been already done to address concerns and issues?**

This was reviewed by County staff, as noted above. It was noted that the three items that the County provided this past summer include: increased by-law supervision, garbage pick-up, "no parking" signs on south of Erie Blvd., and signage for the provincial park.

d) Where do we go from here?

Chair asked Committee members to think about 3-5 areas we need to address i.e. safety services, education, how do we serve people at the beach so everyone has a positive experience.

Objective is to provide solutions and suggestions for Council.

Keith noted that staff will provide a one-page with bullets of all the concerns from today. These can be prioritized, plus any other items, at the next meeting.

Health issues – Lyme disease. Health Unit is providing education. Bill Cridland knows that signage is being developed – he will gather clarification.

Notes for next meeting:

Lots of interest and concerns – but little time.

Criteria to help prioritize issues would be beneficial.

Deal with budget issues first.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**7. CLOSED "IN-CAMERA" SESSION**

None

**8. DATE, TIME, LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, November 10, 2011 (1 – 4 p.m.)

Thursday, November 24, 2011 (1 – 4 p.m.)

Monday, December 12, 2011 (1 – 4 p.m.)

Location: County Adm Building, 50 Colborne St., S., Simcoe - Committee Room "A"

**9. ADJOURNMENT 4:50 p.m.**

  
Chairman