

SWM WHAT'S NEW

The official newsletter of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

TODAY

IN BRIEF

General business of Council:

- Vouchers
- Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2020
- Staff Information Update Report: Building Department
- General Correspondence

Adopted By-laws to:

- Adoption of Site Plan Agreement - 3355 Lobelia Drive in SWM
- Confirm the proceedings of Council - October 14, 2020

FUTURE

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Council

Meetings:

- October 28 , 2020
- Budget Meetings begin November 4, 2020

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. for our next virtual meetings viewable on YouTube - link to meeting is available at the top of the agenda

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DETAIL

DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER 14

Council reviewed three drainage matters in Southwest Middlesex at the meeting held last evening. A Court of Revision was held for the James Court Outlet Drain which will provide drainage for the new subdivision at the east end of Melbourne. The schedule of assessment for James Court was confirmed for the work required. Two additional drainage matters under Section 78 of the Drainage Act, being changes to an existing drain, were accepted for the McFarlane Drain and the Towers Drain. Both drains are located in Ward 1.

A site plan for the property at 3355 Lobelia Drive was recommended for adoption by Southwest Middlesex. This site plan will provide an opportunity for a new Agri-Tourism business in Southwest Middlesex which will provide for farm experiences, lodging and seasonal group events. We welcome this new venture to Southwest Middlesex and wish the owners great success.

Residential chickens were a topic of discussion at the council meeting. Council have asked staff to undertake a public consultation process to determine resident interest in Southwest Middlesex providing a new service of licensing and regulating residential/backyard chickens on residential properties in Southwest Middlesex. Keep watching for opportunities to learn more about this matter.

Southwest Middlesex Economic Development reported on achievements in the 3rd quarter noting several progressive steps forward, including the development of a Community Improvement Plan to help support local business. The certified site/industrial park at the south end of Glencoe will receive additional marketing support through grant opportunities at a combined total of 75% of costs. Funds are provided by the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trades and the County of Middlesex. Plans include a new marketing video, sign installation and improved marketing materials will be produced showing clear details about the property. Additionally, a municipal branding exercise could take place in the future to help strengthen the position of Southwest Middlesex. This endeavour will be considered during the 2021 budget deliberations.

Southwest Middlesex has obtained group insurance which we are pleased to offer to facility users. Our current rental agreements have standard contract language requiring renters to carry their own insurance in the case of an accident. This left some users with a high personal liability where insurance coverage was out-of-reach. Staff were able to obtain an additional group insurance program that is now available to facility users at a reasonable cost.

Existing rental agreements are being updated with "Renters of Southwest Middlesex facilities are required to pay the additional insurance premium unless they are able to provide proof of insurance including \$2 million liability naming the Municipality as additional insured." More information is available in the council agenda package dated October 14, 2020 found here <https://southwestmiddlesex.ca/Public/Council-Committees-Agenda-Minutes>