

REVISED SURVEY

Respondents: Nick Tasse, Lauren Small-Pennefather, Jonathan Cha, Franco Forlini, Shayan Shafei, and Philippe Bergeron

All statements had Agree, Disagree, Undecided, and Don't wish to answer options

PAC, Urban Planning & the Permits Process

- 1a. Bylaws should be reviewed and overhauled, and the permits process simplified making it more user-friendly with greater trust in residents' judgement.
- 1b. The review committee of part 1a should consist of some "ordinary" citizens in addition to interested PAC and council members.
2. Reduce the number of projects that require permits.
3. Establish a well-defined appeals/review process occurring before any PAC decision is formally accepted at a council meeting at which time it becomes a legal obligation.
4. Create an online table of common household projects indicating whether they require permits and/or approval.
- 5a. When PAC is deliberating on a project, if a consensus is not possible, a majority vote should be taken.
- 5b. PAC should abandon the time-consuming process of achieving consensus and adopt much simpler majority decision-making.
6. PAC membership should be open to "ordinary" residents other than those who are architects, urban planners, or in construction – which is the current composition.
7. Emergency repairs need to be defined which do not require approval and/or permits.
8. In a town where so many homes are plagued with water issues, permits should not be required for installation of French drains in detached houses.
9. Planning department and PAC decisions need to be made as quickly as possible so that residents don't lose their priority with their contractor.

6 participating candidates:

Nick, Lauren, Jonathan, Franco, Philippe, Shayan

Agreement except for:

Lauren was undecided about #2 and #8

Jonathan was undecided about #5b and #8

Franco was undecided about #6 and disagreed with #8

Philippe was undecided about #8

Philippe also provided some supplementary information on many of the statements [here](#).

TRANSPARENCY

1. Publish the annual Infrastructure Priority List on the Town website.
2. Publish all studies and reports subject to Access to Information legislation so that residents don't have to make an Access to Information request.
3. Publish all other studies and reports *not* covered by Access to Information legislation; this would include things such as speed bump studies and Traffic Safety Committee recommendations.
- 4a. Committees and committee membership are established through council resolutions, which are public documents. For awareness and to encourage participation, the Town should publish membership of all committees except PAC on the Town website. Non-official committees such as the CRA and the Horticultural society should be encouraged to publish their memberships.
- 4b. A review should be made whether to make PAC membership public. On the one hand it might make PAC members the target of disgruntled homeowners, on the other hand it would lead to greater accountability. Once the permit process and bylaws are overhauled, this may no longer be a concern.
5. PAC should publish statistics detailing how many projects are accepted outright, how many are accepted with conditions, the number of appeals, and the number of outright refusals.

6 participating candidates:

Nick, Lauren, Jonathan, Franco, Philippe, Shayan

Agreement except for:

Franco disagreed with #4b and #5

Jonathan was undecided about #5

Lauren disagreed with #2 and was undecided about #4a and #5

Philippe pointed out that PAC membership is already public (Editor's note: but only in the minutes of a special meeting which are not published until the next calendar year)

COMMUNICATION

A. Response & Feedback from Councillors and Town Civil Servants

1. Town officials/staff should be encouraged to reply to residents within 5-7 working days.
2. Council, including the mayor, should reply to residents within 3-5 working days.

B. Informal Surveys

3. The Town should experiment with using informal online surveys to gauge public opinion and promote engagement.

C. Periodic Open Forums

4. Hold public meetings, perhaps 3 a year, to encourage discussion, debate and feedback.

6 participating candidates:

Nick, Lauren, Jonathan, Franco, Philippe, Shayan

Agreement except for:

Jonathan was undecided about #2

Five of the six candidates were undecided about #3, only **Shayan** agreed.

ORIGINAL SURVEY

Respondents: Martha Slocombe, Kevin Alladin, Victor Gonzalez, Beny Masella

All statements had Agree, Disagree, and Undecided options

PAC, Urban Planning & the Permits Process

- 1a. Review and overhaul of bylaws, simplification of the permits process making it more user-friendly with greater trust in residents' judgement.
- 1b. Two or three citizens, in addition to interested PAC members, should be part of the review process mentioned in question 1a.
2. Reduce the number of projects that require permits.
3. Establish a well-defined appeals process.
4. Create an online table of 25-30 common household projects indicating whether they require permits and/or approval.
5. To favour homeowners, PAC decisions should be majority decisions and not consensus-based as is currently the case.
6. PAC membership should be open to residents other than those who are architects, urban planners, or in construction (i.e. the current criteria).
7. Time-sensitive emergency maintenance & repairs after flooding, sewer backups, leaking roofs, broken front doors, broken windows, etc. should not require approval or permits.
8. In a town where so many homes are plagued with water issues, a permit should not be required for a French drain.
9. Planning department and PAC decisions need to be made as quickly as possible so that residents don't lose their priority with their contractor.

4 participating candidates:

Martha, Kevin, Victor, Beny. Nick participated in both surveys, I used his second answers on the first two pages above.

Agreement except for:

Kevin was undecided about #2

Victor was undecided about #1b, #6, #8

Beny was undecided about #2, #3, #7 and disagreed with # 8

TRANSPARENCY

1. Publish the annual Infrastructure Priority List on the Town website.
2. Publish all traffic studies – including for speed bumps, and recommendations by the Traffic Safety Committee
3. Publish all other studies and reports commissioned by the Town.
4. For awareness and to encourage participation, publish the membership of all Town committees: who's on the MADA (seniors) committee, the Public Safety committee, etc.

4 participating candidates:
Martha, Kevin, Victor, Beny. Nick participated in both surveys, I used his second answers on the first two pages above.

Agreement except for:
Beny disagreed with #1 and #3

COMMUNICATION

A. Response & Feedback from Councillors and Town Civil Servants

1. Town officials/staff should be encouraged to reply to residents within 5-7 working days.
2. Council, including the mayor, should reply to residents within 5-7 working days.

B. Informal Surveys

3. The Town should experiment with using informal online surveys to gauge public opinion and promote engagement.

C. Periodic Open Forums

4. Hold public meetings, perhaps 3 a year, to encourage discussion, debate and feedback.

4 participating candidates:
Martha, Kevin, Victor, Beny. Nick participated in both surveys, I used his second answers on the first two pages above.

Agreement except for:
Kevin disagreed with #1 and #2
Beny was undecided about #3 and #4