

Jack's Recap

September 28, 2015: Rezoning, Rezoning? Where have we heard this before?

Rezoning amendment 380 LAFOREST road

After watching and re-watching this agenda item, I think I finally understand what occurred here. Mr Gauthier's parents lived in Kapuskasing and he wanted to have them live near him in Timmins. As the owner of a large lot on Laforest road, he drew up some plans to accommodate his parents in a nanny suite attached to his main residence, as yet not constructed. When he spoke to the planning department, he was informed that nanny suites were not permitted; however, he was instructed that he could apply for a temporary use building permit. In the meantime, his parents sold their home in Kapuskasing, so he went ahead and applied for and was granted a permanent building permit. He built an 866sq/ft modular home erected on Techno posts and a single cement slab. Sure, he definitely put the cart before the horse, but really what choice did he have? His neighbour was opposed to the rezoning amendment because she feared that the second well that Mr. Gauthier was told he required would rob her of that same water when she decided to build in the near future. These by-laws have to be reviewed. With an aging population and families wanting to keep their parents in their home for as long as possible, there needs to be more flexibility to encourage this. It saves having to put more people into long term care prematurely and offers people the dignity to live out their 'glory years' while maintaining some independence. When we personally looked into this option after purchasing 35 acres on Shirley St. North, we were given the same negative answers that Mr. Gauthier received: Absolutely no nanny suites and no reasons were given for this decision. The result for us was that we sold the land. Again, these by-laws have to be reviewed. By the way, Mr. Gauthier was informed last night that a second well would not be required. The rules should be simple and not convoluted and this might encourage more families to keep their ageing family members close by.

2016 Snowcross Event- Angela Vacchino

Last year over 300 racers and 4000 spectators brought in an estimated \$335,000 in tourism dollars, as per Timmins tourism. Angela came today asking for the use of the snow dump, the mobile bleachers ,heated portable toilets, the tent, a diesel generator and a donation of \$5,000 (all of which was donated by the city of Timmins last year). The total of which when pressed by councillor Campbell is well over \$10,000 in kind and real dollar donations. Angela reported that the event last year was revenue neutral. A decision is needed quickly so planning can proceed smoothly and will be given at the very next meeting. I find it amazing that 300 participants and 4000 spectators, over a two day period of purchasing food and drinks combined with subscription fees and spectators fees could not generate any profit? In the future, I believe the city should be supplied with a full accounting of the event, prior to making a donation of over \$10,000. Will the city kick in \$10,000 to all sports groups? Maybe a review of their attendance fee and their sponsorships should be undertaken to permit these groups to run independently of taxpayer's dollars. Also I wonder why our tourism department is not involved directly with this event? This event is very important to our community and should be supported. Ms. Vacchino has put in a lot of work to develop this event and should be congratulated for this. She would also like to expand this event to a week-long Timmins snowmobile event. Fantastic idea and I would hope that our tourism department would jump on board and lend a helping hand to promote this.

Home Based Business Friendly Community- Kevin Vincent

While in favour of home businesses, Councillor Bamford says that each home based business should

be treated individually. The city's approval should not be left open ended because some home based businesses can create unfair advantages, such as industrial businesses where taxation is taken into account. Councillor Bamford says that provisions should be in place to deal with these types of issues. I believe this agenda item will be supported when voted upon.

That's a rap on this week's recap!