

Here are the highlights from the regular Lanark County Council meeting held Wednesday, June 8.

- **Public Meeting to Address ANSI Designations:** Council approved a motion to hold a public meeting related to an official plan amendment to the Lanark County Sustainable Communities Official Plan (SCOP) to identify three classifications of Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). When the SCOP was approved in June 2012, geographic information was provided by Land Information Ontario through its Ontario Geographic Data Entry system. The ANSI layer was provided to the county in “base format,” which has since been differentiated into three distinct layers: Life Science ANSI, Earth Science ANSI and Candidate ANSI. There are different setbacks and types of studies required for development proposals adjacent to each type. Mississippi Mills is currently developing new policies to identify the three classifications, and since the Planning Act requires local municipal official plans to conform to the upper tier (county), the county’s SCOP must be amended to show the different ANSI designations. After that, Mississippi Mills’ related official plan amendment can be approved by Lanark County, which is the approval authority. A public meeting must be held whenever there is a change or revision to the Lanark County SCOP. The county’s amendment will add the new designations in the related section and add a schedule to identify the different ANSI designations within Mississippi Mills. A future amendment is being considered to recognize the three types of ANSIs within the rest of the county. The meeting is planned for Wednesday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m. in Lanark County Council Chambers. For more information, contact Mary Kirkham, Planning Administrator, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1520.
  
- **Funds Allocated for Tourism Projects:** Council has approved a recommendation by the economic development committee to support a financial request from the Lanark County Tourism Association in the amount of \$3,500 towards a project to benefit tourism operators, LCTA members and municipalities. The funds will come from the 2016 Tourism - Joint Projects budget. A presentation by LCTA’s Amy Hogue to the committee last month outlined the two projects. The first piece is to coordinate the creation of an image database of Lanark County tourism operators, festivals, events, attractions and assets that will be available for free for tourism operators and municipal partners. It will provide access to high-quality, professional images for use in promotional or marketing opportunities. “Images would focus on hidden gems within the community and their goal will be to evoke a feeling or connections with the image,” Ms. Hogue explained. The second component is to create a list of tourism assets to assist in the creation of video and blog stories of tourism members and their offerings. This would include museums, natural attractions, trails, agri-tourism sites, tourism operators and more and will focus on visitor experiences in the area. The stories will be distributed through social media and online advertisements on relevant tourism travel websites. Ms. Hogue explained the LCTA will be contributing \$3,500. The combined total is then eligible for a matching contribution through the tourism development partnership program offered by Ontario’s Highlands Tourism Organization. For more information, contact Marie White, Tourism Manager, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1530.
  
- **Update Provided about Active Transportation:** Council received an active transportation update that was initially presented by CAO Kurt Greaves at the last public works committee meeting. Mr. Greaves outlined the county’s paved shoulder program, which began in December 2013 with a motion to work towards paving the shoulders of all county roads. The county has completed 27 per cent of its goal so far. He indicated paved shoulders represent a “triple win” in terms of safety, economics and healthy communities. U.S. data shows paved shoulders reduce the frequency of

head-on, side-swipe, fixed-object and vehicle-pedestrian crashes. In terms of economics, costs include paving, line painting and repairing, but having paved shoulders reduces costs of washout repair, grading and gravel reapplication, and they increase road life by reducing edge breakage. He says this could represent a net annual savings of more than \$600,000 in Lanark County, with a payback of the initial up-front cost over 16 years. It could also mean the reduction in the number of graders needed in the county's fleet. Mr. Greaves also noted paved shoulders increase comfort level for pedestrians, cyclists and parents, which improves quality of life. Other benefits include an increased turning radius at intersections, consistent surfaces for easier snowplowing, improved drainage and more economic development. In terms of trails, Mr. Greaves noted the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation was established in 2006 with dedicated volunteers who manage county trails with the public works department and other partners. He highlighted progress on the Lanark County Ring Trail, which aims to link all eight local municipalities. So far it includes the K&P Trail from Renfrew to Kingston (with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority owning the Lanark County portion), the Glen Tay to Havelock Trail and the new CP Rail Trail from Smiths Falls to Mattawa. There is still a 25-kilometre stretch between Glen Tay and Smiths Falls to complete, and there will be negotiations related to the development of the CP Rail corridor. For more information, contact Kurt Greaves, CAO, at 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1101.

- **Upcoming Meetings: County Council, Wednesday, June 22, 5 p.m.;** Economic Development, June 22 (following County Council); Public Works, June 22 (following Economic Development); **Special County Council, June 22 (following Public Works). Please note there are no meetings in July.** **County Council, Wednesday, June 8, 5 p.m.;** Community Services, June 8 (following County Council); Corporate Services, June 8 (following Community Services). For more information, contact 1-888-9-LANARK, ext. 1502. Like "LanarkCounty1" on Facebook and follow "@LanarkCounty1" on Twitter!