

Here is a resume of the last council meeting and public consultation held January 9th 2016.

Results of Public Consultation on By-law 235

We received a number of comments from citizens on the By-law 235 which was passed as a first draft by the Council at its December 12, 2015 meeting. Thank you for your interest and input! Generally, the comments were very positive. We received some helpful suggestions and guidance. Some minor changes were made, and a second draft prepared for the public meeting on January 9.

The public consultation session at 9:00 am on January 9 was well attended. Barkmere has involved and informed citizens! We went through the draft by-law, article by article, and explained the context and clarified the changes that were being proposed. As always, issues come up in public consultations that are not directly related to the actual by-law being proposed. There are number of individual situations within Barkmere which are problematic and difficult for particular citizens. Some of these situations and issues will no doubt be brought forward for more discussion at the June "Town Hall" session on urban planning. Council cannot solve all the problems, but we are doing our best to listen and try and find solutions that are in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Council meeting of January 9

Immediately following the public consultation, we held the regular Council meeting. Here are the highlights:

- Council passed a second draft of By-law 235. A copy of this second draft, showing the minor changes made vis-à-vis the first draft, will be placed on the Town website. As this by-law is subject to possible referendum approval, the required notices will be placed in the *Info du Nord* in accordance with the *Cities and Towns Act*. If you would like more information about By-law 235 or the process of its coming into force, please do not hesitate to contact our Director General. As previously noted, the goals of this by-law are:
 - i) to remove some long-standing irritants for the residents of the village zones, regarding placement of sheds and wood sheds;

- ii) to settle a long-standing ambiguity regarding front lots vs. back lots for residences which have both lake and road access;
 - iii) to loosen an overly restrictive rule on setbacks for boathouses and docks in the particular case of pie-shaped lots; and
 - iv) to create “baseline” rules for boathouses and docks which, while generous and consistent with current practice on the lake, fill in the current situation where no rules apply. The goal is to have these new guidelines in place in time for the February construction period.
- Council approved the budget and plan for the shared fire protection services program among Barkmere, Montcalm, Arundel and Huberdeau. The 2016 plan and budget are essentially the same as in prior years. The financial share of Barkmere is approximately \$20,000 .

With best regards,