



Echoes from Barkmere – January - 2023

Here is a summary of the last Council meeting held Saturday, January 21st 2023 :

MAYOR'S TALKING NOTES

ANNONCES

DEATH OF ALBERT RAYMOND

After the December meeting, it is with great sadness that we have learned about the passing of Mr. Albert Raymond, who left us on December 17th. A former resident of Barkmere, Mr. Raymond was also the father of former Councillor Chantal Raymond and the father-in-law of former Councillor Laurent Barbé. Mr. Raymond was always entertaining us with his contagious happiness and his sense of humour. He died at the advanced age of 98 years old, no doubt due to the pure air we can breathe at Bark Lake! We offer our most sincere condolences to Chantal and Laurent, and to their daughters, Charlotte and Émilie.

DEATH OF ROBERT PALO'S FATHER

Also, Mayor mentioned the passing of the father of Mr. Robert Palo, on January 7th. We are also offering our condolences to Bob and Ellen, and their daughters, Annika and Stephanie.

The mayor asked for a minute of silence to be held in memory of those who died.

ADOPTION OF BY LAWS

Bylaw # 275

Council adopted by-law 275 establishing the tax rate for the year 2023. As mentioned during the council meeting, the by-law sets \$0.497 per \$100 valuation, up 5% from to 2022 as explained by Councilor Marc Frédette both during the adoption of the budget and during the presentation of the by-law and in the Fall/Winter Bulletin.

Bylaw # 276

Council adopted by-law 276 to abrogate bylaw 212, which concerned the creation of a financial reserve whose funds came from a special tax imposed on residents of the Duncan Road sector.

MUNICIPAL TAX ACCOUNT 2023

We inform all tax payers that the tax accounts are now being prepared and should be sent by the end of January.

BILINGUAL STATUS

Following the adoption of bill 96, modifying the Quebec Charter of the French Language, when a municipality has more than 50% of its permanent population using French at home, it must decide if it wishes to maintain its status of bilingual municipality. The Quebec Office of the French Language has sent a request to that effect to the Town, as the last federal census showed that 50% of the respondents declared using French at home. Given the important proportion of permanent and non-permanent residents that are not native French speakers, Council has decided to maintain the status of bilingual municipality for the Town.

ENVIRONNEMENT

SUPPORT TO OBVL-RPNR AGAINST COMMON REED

A resolution was adopted to support the Watershed Organization (OBV-RPNS), of which Barkmere is a member, to fight against the spread of the common reed, an alien invasive species, which destroys the wetland native plant species, like bullrushes.

PROTECTED AREA UPTSREAM FROM BARK LAKE

To follow up on the recommendations of Éco-Corridors Laurentiens and the Quebec Society for the Protection and Nature and Parks (SNAP), as well as with agreement of the members of the Municipal Council of Montcalm, it has been decided to widen the projected area of protection to cover entirely the public lands.

Éco-Corridors Laurentiens will prepare the project and the official request, in view of beginning to meet with all the partners in this area and present them our project. The members of the Council of Barkmere are very happy to be able to work on this project with their colleagues of Montcalm et wish to thank them for their support.

URBANISM

The General Manager reports that in December there was a transaction involving the commercial building next to City Hall. A renovation permit was issued to the purchaser authorizing the replacement of the asphalt shingle of the roof as well as an occupancy permit for the sale of petroleum products...

REPORT FROM LAST COUNCIL OF MAYORS OF MRC DES LAURENTIDES

There were few subjects on the agenda of the Council of January 19th, with the exception of various grant requests for the bicycling paths and other projects. Before the meeting, representatives of the Sûreté du Québec presented their annual report. Just like elsewhere in Quebec, police officers have to intervene more and more in cases of psychological distress, for which they do not necessarily have all the tools. This is a new reality, which seems to have worsened since the pandemic.



The lake in Black and White.....