



Town of Newmarket
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Clematis Parking Review Staff Report to Council

Report Number: 2021-09

Department(s): Engineering Services

Author(s): M. Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services

Meeting Date: February 22, 2021

Recommendations

1. That the report entitled Clematis Road Parking Review dated February 22, 2021 be received; and,
2. That the proposed parking amendments outlined in Appendix A be adopted; and,
3. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

Purpose

The Town received a petition signed by all six households on Clematis Road asking the Town to implement parking restrictions on the street to address concerns related to school parking from St. Elizabeth Seton CES. This report outlines the findings of the review.

Background

At the regular meeting on October 26, 2020, the Committee of the Whole received a petition from the residents of Clematis Road requesting parking restrictions. The proposed parking restrictions would be from Monday to Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Currently, there are no restrictions to parking on this road. The restrictions being requested are to address parking concerns associated with the St. Elizabeth Seton CES operations.

Discussion

Clematis Road is a short local residential street that runs from Jacarandah Drive and terminates at the St. Elizabeth Seton CES property. Clematis Road has no sidewalks on either side of the street, and does not have any vehicle turnaround facility at the terminus (no turning bulb or hammerhead design). The terminus of Clematis Road does provide access to the school via a walkway.

Through this review, it was discovered that St. Elizabeth Seton CES has become a holding school for the French immersion program, thereby increasing the number of students. This has resulted in additional traffic and parking operations due to increased enrolment. Such an increase is normally dealt with by the school, in collaboration with its school bus program, but in this case Clematis Road is a good candidate for the “walk-a-block” program, due to its proximity with, and direct connection to, the school. The Town strongly supports “walk-a-block” programs for schools, and therefore, would like to help with a solution.

It was observed that vehicles are circling and maneuvering on the street while children walk on the road to access the walkway to the school. Given that Clematis Road has no sidewalks or turning facility, pedestrians are vulnerable users. Parking being currently allowed on both sides of the street during school hours is also creating maneuverability issues for residents who are trying to get in and out of their driveways.

Resident feedback has indicated that the parking changes being requested are not an ideal solution, but that they would be sufficient to handle the residents’ immediate concerns. Over time, St. Elizabeth Seton CES may become a local school again and lose its holding designation. Also, Clematis Road may be re-constructed at some time in the future, which could include consideration for constructing a sidewalk and a proper turnaround; however, Clematis Road is not currently on the 5-year Capital reconstruction program. Finally, building additional school capacity in East Gwillimbury to handle the additional students is several years away; therefore, this parking solution will help in the immediate and mid-term until conditions change.

Conclusion

The new parking restrictions, as requested by the residents of Clematis Road in their petition, are being recommended to Council. Appendix A contains the recommended bylaw amendments.

All households within the study area will receive a copy of this report and a notice indicating the date and time of the Committee of the Whole at which the matter will be heard. Residents who wish to address the Committee will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

Well-planned and connected...strategically planning for the future to improve information access and enhance travel to, from, and within Newmarket.

Consultation

The Town received a petition from all households on Clematis Road (six in total). Transportation staff reached out to consult with all six households that would be impacted by the requested parking changes by sending each household a letter requesting their input (dated November 18, 2020). The purpose was to solicit any additional comments. The Town received three responses, of which two were in support. The third was in support, but preferred increased enforcement as a mitigation measure.

To further communicate the findings and invite more feedback, all households within the study area will receive a copy of this report and a notice indicating the date and time of the Committee of the Whole at which the matter will be heard. Residents who wish to address the Committee will have the opportunity to do so at that time.

The School Administration at St. Elizabeth Seton CES has been contacted by the Town's Transportation Services staff to discuss the matter and solicit their engagement in educating students to minimize the risk of walking on a street with no sidewalks, and to educate parents as to safer drop off areas for their children.

The Town's Legislative Services Department has been consulted regarding this report.

Human Resource Considerations

None.

Budget Impact

Funds for the required signage would come from the Regulatory Signs – Engineering line from the Operating Budget. The cost would be approximately \$700.00 for the required signage. There is sufficient money in this account to cover the cost.

Attachments

Appendix A – Proposed Parking Bylaw Amendment

Approval

Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services

Peter Noehammer, Commissioner, Development & Infrastructure Services

Contact

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact Mark Kryzanowski, Manager, Transportation Services, at 905-895-5193 extension 2508 or MKryzanowski@newmarket.ca