



SUBJECT: Meridian / Aldershot Quarry

TO: Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.

FROM: Office of the Mayor

Report Number: MO-01-21

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 210-01

Date to Committee: February 2, 2021

Date to Council: February 16, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the Terms of Reference for the creation of the Aldershot Quarry Community Liaison Committee detailed in Appendix C to Mayor's office report MO-02-21; and

Receive and file Appendices A and B to Mayor's office report MO-02-21.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture

Background and Discussion:

In Mayor's office report MO-17-19 brought to committee and council in December of 2019, the Mayor was directed to:

- 1) Write to the three local MPPs for Burlington, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry to request a meeting to discuss the conditions of the site plan and their oversight and due diligence in ongoing monitoring and studies conducted on the air quality impacts of the quarry activities to ensure the quarry is operating within provincial regulations.

- 2) Establish a Community Council Liaison Committee with representation from Meridian/Aldershot Quarry, local citizens, provincial ministries, city staff and council, and other stakeholders (as identified below), to provide regular communication among stakeholders, renew monitoring studies, and discuss quarry activities and any emerging/new issues.

Since that time, the Mayor has delivered on the following:

- 1) Held an initial meeting between representatives of Meridian Quarry and TEC and Burlington Green in February of 2020 to facilitate information exchange and better understand needs and expectations going forward.
- 2) Presented information about the quarry to the following Ministers during the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August of 2020:
 - a) The Honourable Minister Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (*presentation is available as Appendix A*) where we asked for
 - i) A meeting to better understand the nature of the air quality studies done and the oversight of the quarry
 - ii) Options on a Minister's Zoning Order for future quarrying
 - iii) Staff to join the liaison committee
 - b) MPP Mike Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister John Yakabuski (*presentation is available as Appendix B*) where we asked for
 - i) A meeting to better understand the nature of the air quality studies done and the oversight of the quarry
 - ii) Options on a Minister's Zoning Order for future quarrying
 - iii) Staff to join the liaison committee
- 3) Scheduled follow-up meetings with the Ministers or someone from their team (as requested above) for the following dates:
 - a) Minister Yurek: TBD
 - b) Minister Yakabuski: TBD
- 4) Created an initial Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Aldershot Quarry Community Liaison Committee with input solicited from city staff and member representatives from Tyandaga Environmental Coalition, Meridian, Burlington Green,

CORE (Conserving Our Rural Ecosystems) Burlington, and PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Land) of Burlington (available as Appendix C)

- 5) Scheduled the first meeting of the Aldershot Quarry Community Liaison Committee for February 22, 2021.

Elsewhere in 2019's report MO-17-19, city staff were directed as follows:

- Direct the Executive Director of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility to investigate the Air Quality Bylaw for Oakville and report back to council with a recommendation for a similar bylaw for Burlington by Q2 2020; and
- Direct the Executive Director of Legal Services and Corporation Counsel to retain an environmental lawyer to advise on the municipal role in the Aldershot Quarry, the potential air quality bylaw and any other matters arising; and
- Direct the Executive Director of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility to review and report back on the peer reviews of the studies done by Meridian/Aldershot Quarry and requirements for ongoing monitoring and potential impacts on human health. As part of the review, report back on the cost and process to conduct an independent peer review of studies conducted to date; and
- Direct the Director of Roads, Parks and Forestry to review the forestry plan for phased removal and replacement of trees at the Aldershot Quarry, and report back with an assessment to council in Q2 2020

These items will be addressed under a separate report on this same committee agenda (Report Number PL-04-21).

Financial Matters:

Not applicable.

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable.

Climate Implications

The activity of the quarry has local air quality and climate implications which is the main reason for the action being taken in this report.

Engagement Matters:

As mentioned above, while creating the initial Terms of Reference for the establishment of the Aldershot Quarry Community Liaison Committee, input was solicited from city staff and member representatives from Tyandaga Environmental Coalition, Meridian, Burlington Green, CORE (Conserving Our Rural Ecosystems) Burlington, and PERL (Protecting Escarpment Rural Land) of Burlington.

Conclusion:

Burlington has two quarries: Nelson Aggregate Co., in Ward 3, and Meridian Brick Aldershot Quarry in Ward 1. Both of these quarries attract interest from residents and groups across the city.

The two quarries are at different stages:

Nelson is currently seeking an expansion to their quarry under a separate process that is underway and being reported on in separate city and Halton Region reports.

Meridian is exercising an existing license.

The primary consideration for the city regarding the quarry activity under Meridian's existing license is ensuring there is no negative impact on public health, ensuring appropriate oversight and monitoring, and maintaining regular and transparent communication with surrounding residents and all interested stakeholders.

We are committed to acting based on science and evidence, and the actions detailed in this report, along with the companion staff report on this same committee agenda, are in service of that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Appendices:

A: Presentation to Minister Yurek

B: Presentation to MPP Harris

C: Terms of Reference for Aldershot Quarry Community Liaison Committee

Report Approval:

Reports are reviewed by the City Manager.