

Another step for Sail Parry Sound

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by **Stephannie Johnson**

PARRY SOUND - What was previously approved in principle, Town council has made another step to allow Sail Parry Sound to lease a portion of the former Town Beach for its sailing centre and school.

At its June 1 meeting, council tabled the by-law to approve the lease until a formal site plan can be constructed and a public meeting held to gather feedback from ratepayers.

Sail Parry Sound approached council over a year ago with a basic site plan and at the time, was hoping to get a decision from council based on that plan.

“The next step would be to get some professional advice on how to develop that site properly,” said Sail Parry Sound representative Larry Woolner. “We want to make it look very pretty, make it look functional for us. High priority for us is minimal impact on the area.”

Councillor Richard Adams said that a preliminary site plan would not satisfy ratepayers at a public meeting. In order to be able to accurately answer their questions, a concrete plan must be ready.

Formal site plan

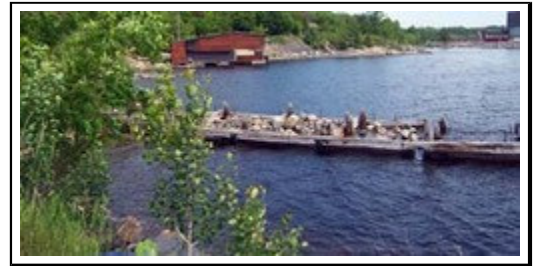
“Besides having a public meeting, which I think is most important, we have to have a more formal site plan, so that at the public meeting people can have a better idea of what’s going in there,” said Mr. Adams. “Also, there’s the issue of parking. Parking is going to be a significant issue as this develops and I think there has to be some real guidelines as to how the parking is going to be handled and who’s going to pay for the parking lot.”

Next year

Mr. Woolner said he’d be more than happy to present his information with a landscape architect at a public meeting, but felt that he would not have “a finished picture” until sometime next year.

“I believe if you go in with public support and I believe you’ll get that through an open meeting,” said councillor Conrad van der Valk. “Layout exactly what you are intending, show how you are safeguarding the public access to the area in question. That it will not become a private club, that it will be available to the public at large. You’re going to get a far better buy-in and your going to a lay to rest a lot of those concerns about exclusivism, the very thing that you don’t want for your sailing school.”

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Part of the proposed site for Sail Parry Sound's sailing school, near the old Town Beach.