

Defend Lakeport unhappy with council response

OPINION Mar 04, 2019 Brighton Independent

Dear Editor:

At the Feb. 5, 2019 council meeting, Defend Lakeport made a presentation outlining [our concerns](#) with Sharpshooter Industries' intent to operate a cannabis production facility in Lakeport. At the conclusion of our presentation we requested a response and that that response be included on the Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019 agenda.

Council did not send a response to Defend Lakeport, nor was any included in the agenda. It was not until the meeting had adjourned and during Public/Gallery Question Period that discussion took place, initiated by our (Defend Lakeport) request for information.

Mayor Martin's comment, "Again, I don't know how many times I have to say this, we have nothing to react to" was perceived by me to be a totally unempathetic response. When we pointed out that a 10' fence might be something to react to, councillor Ed Van Egmond responded "You can put up a fence yourself if you want. I can put up a fence. Tim (Councillor Gilligan) can put up a fence."

The fence discussion continued and I elaborated on the fact that we are talking about 10' fence with barb wire. To this councillor Gilligan replied "There is no barbed wire on top."

This remark inspired me to search Cramahe's website wherein I found Bylaw 06-28

Item No. 4. No fence shall have a height greater than 2 meters (6.2 feet) as measured from ground level. I could only find this information as it relates to residential use. However it would be reasonable to assume that fencing height restrictions also apply to industries and that common sense would dictate that in a situation such as we have in Lakeport, where a property with outdated industrial/manufacturing zoning, in the midst of a residential area would not be isolated and exempt from bylaw protection.

This clearly reaffirms the expressed need for a high-security industry such as this to be located in an Industrial Park. The obvious observation that this 10' fence being 9' away from a residence surely must demonstrate the inappropriateness of placing a CPF in this location, whether on paper or not.

Councillor Gilligan's additional comment in discussing such fence, "That's not their front door, is it? I mean you're comparing oranges to apples" in my view is totally unacceptable and void of comprehension.

I would also like to refer councillor Gilligan and council to Sharpshooter's website Sharpshooter.ca and click on the heading Investors under Achievements to date include:

- Cleared the entire property of trees, shrubs, old fencing and a derelict building

- Erected a 10' high barb fence around the perimeter of the property
- Initiating engineering the 10,000 Square Foot expansion (extract plant and laboratories)

A question was also asked if demolition of a building required a site plan. The response from Cramahe planning consultant Heather Sadler was "I don't believe it would." Yet, upon a search of Cramahe's website under the Ontario Building Code Act a permit is required for the following projects under 108 square feet: two such actions are

- Demolish or remove all (or a portion) of a building
- Change a building's use.

I could not find bylaw information as it relates to industrial use, however it again would be reasonable to assume that projects over 108 square feet would not be exempt from such requirements. I also may be incorrect but it would make sense to me that one could not obtain such permit without having first filed a site plan.

Pursuant to some further discussion chief administrative officer Craig Brooks offered that "with regards to the site plan control we have been contacted by their engineer. He basically told us they've given him the power to move ahead with the site plan agreement, so he's initiated that with our building department." Asked if he was aware if they were also applying to Alnwick/Haldimand, his reply was "they didn't speak about that." It is my hope that the engineer was dually informed of the need to do so.

Council may not be obliged or required to share pertinent information or progress with us regarding this matter however the slightest acknowledgement that our concerns are being taken seriously or even matter would go a long way. Not being forthcoming only adds to our growing frustration and anger ... that feeling being compounded by the fact that the site, although partially located in Cramahe, mainly negatively impacts the greater surrounding residential area of Lakeport which is located in Alnwick/Haldimand where residents pay their taxes and vote!

My disappointment and dismay by this apathy greatly diminishes my respect for the democratic process of government in this community.

Yours truly,

Femma Norton,

Lakeport, Ontario

This is a link to online version of the Femma Norton's Letter to the Editor:

<https://www.northumberlandnews.com/opinion-story/9203732-defend-lakeport-unhappy-with-council-response/>