



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle
Regular Meeting of Council
Addendum

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, LaSalle Civic Centre, 5950 Malden Road

Clerk's Note: Members of Council will be participating electronically and will be counted towards quorum. The Minutes will reflect this accordingly. The Electronic Meeting can be viewed at www.youtube.com/c/TownofLaSalleOntario

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Contact the Clerk's Office, abala@lasalle.ca, 519-969-7770 extension 1234.

Pages

D. Delegations

- *1. Specialty/Non-Traditional Crosswalk Policy

2

Delegates:

1. Nancy Campana
2. Brenda Bot-Drake
3. Ian Swentek
4. Adam Boggs
5. Loi and Fong Tran

Clerk's Note: Participation will be held electronically due to COVID-19 pandemic. Delegations have been notified of the virtual Council Meeting process and a maximum of 5 minutes shall be allotted for each delegation to present his/her position of support or opposition to the relevant item on the Agenda.

Below is the list of delegates appearing before Council regarding the Specialty/Non-Traditional Crosswalk Policy Report (PW-02-2021).

1. Nancy Campana
2. Brenda Bot-Drake
3. Ian Swentek
4. Adam Boggs
5. Loi & Fong Tran

Attached are the written submissions provided by residents (listed below) that were notified of the Specialty/Non-Traditional Crosswalk Policy Report (PW-02-2021).

- Nancy Campana
- Brenda Bot-Drake
- Ian Swentek
- Adam Boggs
- Loi & Fong Tran
- Julie LaBelle



Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, Ontario, N9H 1S4
Phone: 519-969-7770 Fax: 519-969-4029

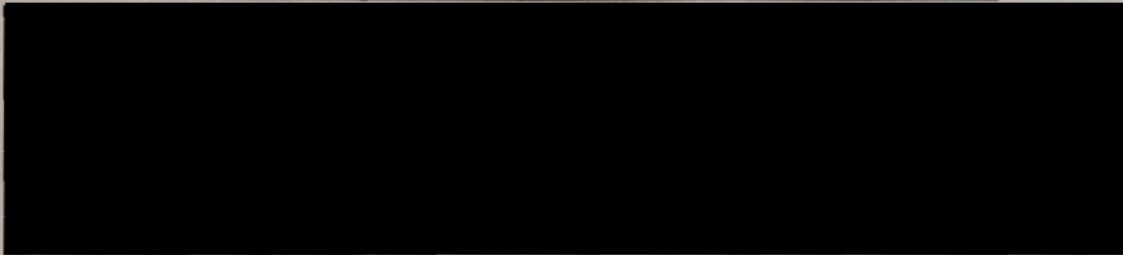
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Delegation Request Form

Please complete this form to speak at a meeting of Town Council or Committee. If filling out by hand, please print clearly.

Please email to arobertson@lasalle.ca, fax to (519) 969-4469, mail or drop off at the Clerk's Department, Town of LaSalle Municipal Office, 5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, Ontario N9H 1S4.

Name: Brenda Bot-Drake



Date of Meeting: Feb. 9/21

Is this an item on the Agenda? Yes ☒ No ☐

Agenda item Number or Topic (if applicable):

I wish to address Council/Committee: Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe in detail the reason for the delegation and what action you will be asking Council/Committee to take (attach separate sheet if necessary):

Proposal for a rainbow crosswalk to be painted at Malden/Normandy with funds donated.

Please note that your name may become part of a public record in an electronic and paper format i.e. council agenda, to enable Council to make its decision on the matter.

☒ I Agree ☐ I Disagree

Submission provided by: Nancy Campana and Brenda Bot-Drake

The Town of LaSalle is rich in trails, parks and recreation areas that connect the community and is made up of a mixture of modern and historical buildings and bordered by a beautiful waterfront with incredible sunsets. We made our home in LaSalle 25 years ago and I have watched with great pride as LaSalle has developed and grown into the beautiful community it is today.

As a family we have witnessed LaSalle's generosity when 8 years ago our son Rocky passed away. We also witnessed the generosity and kindness from so many in LaSalle when we co-founded the Run for Rocky and ran this event for 5 years as well as tabled a petition in the House of Commons to make change to organ donation rules in Canada. The Legacy of the funds raised though Run for Rocky continue to support LGBTQ+ efforts in the entire Windsor Essex County region and funding will continue for many years to come. Most recently when Covid began, the Run for Rocky Legacy Project donated \$10,000 to help fund free counselling for LGBTQ+ youth and Rainbow Families through Family Services Windsor Essex during a time of great isolation for many.

In early June of 2020, I was asked to be the captain for the LaSalle June 27th Miracle Food donation Drive. I reached out to Councillor Sue Desjarlais to co-captain Lasalle with me. In just a short 3.5 weeks Sue and I and our team of leaders were quickly able to mobilize the entire community with an end result that brought in 340,000 tons of food donations and brought together over 1000 volunteers. The large majority of citizens in LaSalle made donations creating a traffic jam on Front Rd and creating a we can do spirit like LaSalle has never seen before. The donations brought in were more than double that of any other town in Essex County. I have heard time and time again by the administration team that LaSalle's generosity and community spirit of LaSalle are incomparable.

When Brenda and I had our first conversation it was our intent from the onset to raise funds for this project. I told Brenda in our first conversation that I was sure the Run for Rocky Legacy project would be willing to make a donation to help cover some of the funds needed. I was confident that raising the money to cover the remainder of the project costs was a very attainable goal knowing the amount of support there is for LGBTQ+ efforts in LaSalle. Since that time two corporate donors have committed their intent to help and are presently working through their head offices to secure a firm and larger donations. One will be a direct donation and the other will be a commitment to upkeep the crosswalk for up to 5 years.

There are now over 30 Rainbow coloured crosswalks in Ontario in small towns and larger cities including in Halton Hills, Barrie, several in London & Toronto, Niagara Falls, Burlington, Chatham Oshawa, Aurora, Sarnia, Thunder Bay, Sault St Marie, Coburg, Port Elgin, Prescott and as Brenda mentioned Kincardine to name a few. The rainbow crosswalks have become synonymous with an Accepting & Welcoming Community. Liveable communities who show visible signs of being welcoming and accepting to diverse cross sections of the populations have proven time and time again through economic studies that they attract corporations and developers to their communities.

Essex County is one of the few counties in Ontario that does not have a Pride Crosswalk on a municipal road. We are the only community with a larger urban population between here and Toronto without a rainbow crosswalk on a municipal road. Those who live here know what a giving and caring community this is and it seems the perfect fit for the first crosswalk of this kind in Essex county to be located right here in LaSalle. In addition to the welcoming community we are LaSalle also has a wealth of LGBTQ+ history that we should be proud of.

I know that this crosswalk would be meaningful to not only many citizens of LaSalle but also to many people in Essex County. If council approves to move ahead with the crosswalk tonight Brenda and I are committed to begin fundraising tonight and lock in the corporate commitments that have come forward. The Run for Rocky Legacy Project has been collecting donations and issuing tax receipts for any donations that come starting tonight. At this time we have sufficient funds to cover the cost of the crosswalk along with a commitment to maintain the crosswalk for a 5 year period. Consideration has also been given to ensure the design of the crosswalk is safe for those with colour deficiencies.

In closing a rainbow crosswalk at the main intersection of Lasalle connecting the community to town hall will shout out "You are welcome here, you are accepted here you are safe here" Every citizen in LaSalle will benefit from this strong message. I do hope council agrees

Thank you for your kind and compassionate consideration of this proposal.



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Name: IAN SWENTEK

Organization/Group/Business represented: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Date of Meeting: February 9, 2021

Is this an item on the Agenda? Yes ☒ No ☐

Agenda item Number or Topic (if applicable): PW-02-2021 Specialty/Non-Traditional
Crosswalk Policy

I wish to address Council/Committee: Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe in detail the reason for the delegation and what action you will be asking Council/Committee to take (attach separate sheet if necessary):

I am asking for an ammendment to the policy.

Please note that your name may become part of a public record in an electronic and paper format i.e. council agenda, to enable Council to make its decision on the matter.

☒ I Agree ☐ I Disagree



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Name: ADAM BOGGS

Date of Meeting: 9-FEB-2021

Is this an item on the Agenda? Yes ☒ No ☐

Agenda item Number or Topic (if applicable): _____

I wish to address Council/Committee: Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe in detail the reason for the delegation and what action you will be asking Council/Committee to take (attach separate sheet if necessary):

SECTION 2.5 OF THE POLICY SHOULD INCLUDE THE WORDS UNIFYING. ANY CULTURAL, HISTORIC, OR EVENT RELATED SYMBOLISM THAT IS NOT UNIFYING, BUT DIVISIVE SHOULD BE REJECTED. THERE IS ENOUGH DIVISION IN OUR SOCIETY, THE TOWN SHOULD FOCUS ON UNITY.

Please note that your name may become part of a public record in an electronic and paper format i.e. council agenda, to enable Council to make its decision on the matter.

☒ I Agree ☐ I Disagree



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Name: Loi Tran & Fong Tran

Organization/Group/Business represented: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Date of Meeting: Feb 9, 2021

Is this an item on the Agenda? Yes ☒ No ☐

Agenda item Number or Topic (if applicable): Specialty/Non-traditional Crosswalk

I wish to address Council/Committee: Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe in detail the reason for the delegation and what action you will be asking Council/Committee to take (attach separate sheet if necessary):

We seek clarifications on PW-02-2021 and have concerns and recommendation for amendments to the draft policy and respectfully request that Council not to approve the policy in its current state.

Please note that your name may become part of a public record in an electronic and paper format i.e. council agenda, to enable Council to make its decision on the matter.

☒ I Agree ☐ I Disagree

Feb 9, 2021

Good evening Mr. Mayor, Madam Deputy Mayor and the members of the town council.

First of all. I want to thank the administration and council members for coming up with a draft policy on the proposal of a Specialty/Non-Traditional Crosswalk in LaSalle, since the last council meeting of October 27, 2020 where the Agenda item on Rainbow Crosswalk was not heard pending this policy development.

We respectfully ask council not to approve the PW-02-2021 policy report dated 29/01/2021 tonight and review all inputs not only submitted by us but from other residents to council.

We were able to access on the agenda item only on Friday February 5, 2021, and took many hours over the last weekend to review. The first time we heard about this Agenda item was by e-mail notification from the town administration on February 4, 2021 when I immediately responded to request for an extension of my delegation form submission. Peter Marra's report dated 29/01/2021 indicated the report was communicated to several people but we have not received it directly to this date. The full report should have been at least included in the e-mail notification we received on February 4, 2021 and not to have to wait till it is publicly available on February 5, 2021. We question the timeline of this notification as it does not give all relevant parties proper timeline to respond fairly.

Below are itemization of points which we need clarification and hope to get an answer, and some recommendations for amendments and additions to the policy, and comments for council to consider which we strongly believe will be beneficial for all parties involved:

POINTS of DRAFT POLICY

1.0 Definitions – add the term permit holder and sponsor to the list of definitions

2.1 – At the initiation process, forms must be completed by the requestor (or potential permit holder once proposal is approved) to A.) **clearly indicate what their intentions are, who they are, whether an individual, organization**, and disclose any related sponsors funding their request including if they are a commercial, religious or political entity, to clearly rescind from their rights to use their funding directly or indirectly for any gain. B.) **Establish requestor/permit holder and town agreement including an indemnity Agreement** and C.) **Time limit on their permit (suggested 3 years)** which may or may not be subject to renewal to provide equitable access of this privilege to be used by any other interest groups, and a transparent criteria of selection and not by the current policy of first come first serve basis setting their rights set in stone for an indefinite monopoly.

2.6 where it states that no proposal will be approved that represents, commercial, religious or political organizations.

We support the reason behind this policy which intends to avoid disagreement in the population which has diverse values. For the same reason, we believe this policy needs to be expanded to include organization with **an ideological or moral cause** that is not universally identified by everyone in order to ensure equality of treatment towards all groups of people regardless of their identity.

In the same light, any proposal promoting only a group based **on their race, colour, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, language** that is not universally identified by everyone should be added to this list. Identity politics has done more damage to social relations in recent years as it emphasizes differences than things we share. This is not who LaSalle Town is and we are a welcoming community and we do not need any marked crosswalk to validate who we are. We are better than that and we do not want to send a wrong message to any diverse group of people that only towns with such special markings are welcoming to them. This also sends a wrong message to the diverse group, separating towns without such markings as if they are not inclusive. This is evident in so many communities that have already experienced many backlashes from both sides just because of a crosswalk marking. We are not saying either groups

are bad or wrong but they certainly feel that their rights have been violated by a crosswalk marking. The Marking on any crosswalk will not identify who we are as the Town of LaSalle. The only truly universal crosswalk is a neutral OTM Standardized cross walk which has nothing to do with anyone's tradition. The name "non-traditional" crosswalk titled in this policy is also misleading and we should change it to be called "Non-Standardized" instead of "non tradition". We are not opposed to any markings which will not promote harm or division in our society. We can envision the federal, provincial or municipal government sponsoring such a cause that is beneficial for the whole population making good use of the public space while maintaining safety for all pedestrians.

2.8 No proposal or markings shall be those of trademarked symbols or words.

Our interpretation on this point is that the rainbow symbol has become a social trademark recognized to represent the LGBTQ+ cause and it is universally understood to stand for that cause. Just like the cross stands for Christianity or the crescent for Islam neither would be accepted for the crosswalk, equally the LGBTQ+ rainbow should not be allowed here, either.

Furthermore, we have the followings questions:

4.5 Would the town be liable in the events of lawsuits resulted from or related to the **Specialty/ Non Standard crosswalk** or would the **permit holder/requestor** be liable in that case?

4.7 The policy on first come first serve basis for implementation of Non traditional crosswalks has a potential for abuse with insider's information and conflict of interest. The public will be better served with an open process of acceptance of proposals with equitable measures in place including criteria for selections.

4.7.1 – 4 Have the neighbors in the 4 locations deemed available for the specialty crosswalk been consulted or notified? What are the town's criteria for picking these locations?

4.9 What are the reasons for the Town of LaSalle in making the designated school crossing guard locations within school zone available for specialty crosswalks? Please provide clarifications whether there will be invitations sent to the schools asking for request for proposals and if so how much time will be given for the

schools to respond? I do not see this will help in achieving the goals mentioned in the **Transportation Masterplan Plan – Town of LaSalle dated January 17, 2020**.

5.6 It would be prudent to have a public consultation at the end of the initiation process before the council's decision. This would provide opportunities for public to submit any constructive input.

5.8 Besides the financial stipulation for ending a specialty crosswalk mentioned in the policy, should the town not establish an exit plan for itself in the policy should a need arise to remove the specialty crosswalk due to other reasons, such as – road work, government mandates, scandal or illegal activities related to the requestor/permit holder, or unforeseen circumstances?

Thank you for allowing us to speak and share our thoughts.

Respectful residents of LaSalle,
Loi Tran and Fong Tran

From: julie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 7, 2021 10:28 PM
To: Anisa Bala <abala@lasalle.ca>
Cc: Linda Jean <ljean@lasalle.ca>
Subject: Re: LaSalle Council Meeting Notification - Specialty/Non-Traditional Crosswalk Policy

Hi Anisa,

I am unable to attend the zoom call but I would like my voice to be heard. I am opposed to the rainbow crosswalk in support of the LGBTQ

I am a long-standing tax payer to the town of LaSalle. This is maddening that you would even consider allowing this as our town council. There are many different people here from many different walks of life. This opens the door to the town of LaSalle having to display support for all different sorts of things as you can't honour one without another.

I think this is a huge mistake and I'm asking town council to say NO. Our children are confused enough and don't need this shoved in our face!! People have their own choices to make in life. I respect those choices however I DO NOT want my kids influenced by seeing this ridiculousness every day.

It is wrong.

The township has no business flavouring and supporting a VERY small percentage of people while they do not allow others to do the same.

I am asking you to vote NO to the rainbow crosswalk please as we DO NOT want our tax dollars going towards this.

Sincerely,
Julie LaBelle.

