

My name is Dennis Nabieszko and I am speaking here as a Director of the Cobourg Taxpayers Association. I am here today to ask one thing. That you stop and take the time to thoroughly read the consultant's final report of the Waterfront User Needs Assessment and Detailed Design that was only issued on Friday.

With so many citizens here making delegations on this report, it shows how important this report and the future of Cobourg's waterfront is to the citizens of Cobourg.

This very significant undertaking is a proposed 24-year plan with expenditures of 26 or 27 million dollars (not sure why there already is a discrepancy). It is based on more than one year's worth of work done by the consultants which includes:

- The 455 people who signed in for 9 workshops
- The thirty different groups who were represented at stakeholder meetings.
- The 2,000 households and 71 businesses who replied to the waterfront survey.

So much of the public have invested so much time and effort in providing their input with the resulting report with the appendices being almost 600 pages. There has there been no public meeting since the last one 7 months ago in October 2017. It has taken the consultants six months to prepare this report. Why has there been no public meeting for feedback on what is in this report?

Council needs the time to assess this report, think about it, ask questions, debate it, and listen to the public's feedback on the plan.

It is not Council's role to represent the Town staff and accept what they have brought forward without a complete review. Why is Council being asked to have town staff act in a decision-making role here? The role of town staff is to act in an advisory capacity, not as decision-makers. Decision-making is the role of Council, not staff.

The Municipal Act states that Council's role is to represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality. How can Council read a report that is 600 pages that was only received last Friday? Why is Town staff rushing Council into making the most important decision this council has had to face?

For something this significant, why have we not seen the Parks and Recreation Committee presenting their recommendations on this detailed plan and answering Council's questions about it? Why have there been no minutes, memos, or reports issued by this committee on this extremely important proposal?

How have we moved to the implementation phase when the final report was only made available three days ago? Without Council:

- Having the time to read the full final report.
- Without having the time to review the plans.
- Without having the time to ask questions.
- Without Council having the time to debate what has been included in this report.

When will Council hear what the rest of the public and the many groups think of what is in this report and not just those making delegations here today? Council needs to take the time to listen to all of these before making any decisions.

Council needs to use the final report with the public input to determine what are the priorities and waterfront projects that should be brought forward for public engagement and approval over the next 5 years. Town staff should not be the ones to set the priorities or determine which projects to bring forward. That is the role of Council, after listening to the public that they represent.

Again, all I am asking is that you stop and take the time to thoroughly read the consultant's FINAL report. Take the time that is needed to thoroughly read through it, ask the public what they think of the proposed plan, and then determine what the next steps should be. The waterfront is vital to Cobourg's future; we have to get it right.

Thank you for listening.

Dennis Nabieszko
Secretary, Cobourg Taxpayers Association