

- [Events](#)
- [Polls](#)
- [Become A Carrier](#)
- [Playoff Pool](#)
- [Norfolk & Region](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [World](#)

News Norfolk & Region

Tents, trailers allowed on Hastings Dr.



By [Daniel R. Pearce](#), Simcoe Reformer

Thursday, July 14, 2016 4:30:23 EDT PM



Hastings Drive at Long Point. (Simcoe Reformer file photo)

- [Recommend 15](#)
- [Tweet](#)
- [G+](#)
- [SHARE](#)

[Change text size for the story](#)

[Print](#)

[Report an error](#)

The long-running controversy over whether or not to allow cottagers to rebuild on Hastings Drive in Long Point has been settled – at least for now.

On Tuesday, elected officials voted to allow landowners to use tents and seasonal trailers on their beachfront properties but not structures.

The decision flew in the face of advice from county staff as well as numerous government agencies, all of whom said Hastings is too dangerous a place to allow any kind of development including camping.

Both people and property are under threat on the narrow stretch of land because of a history of severe storms – most of the cottages there were wiped out in 1985 – while threatened species of toads and turtles that live in the area need to be protected, council heard.

Property owners, however, have pushed council for years to do something to allow them to enjoy their lakefront property.

While the landowners who came to Tuesday's meeting left at least somewhat satisfied (they were not allowed to rebuild following the 1985 storm), the question remains whether council's decision will ever get enacted.

There is a three-week appeal period where anyone who disagrees can appeal the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. The bylaw would then be held up while a hearing is scheduled and the matter heard.

County planner Mary Elder warned council their decision is in conflict with the Provincial Policy Statement, a set of planning guidelines all municipalities must follow, and the county's official plan because Hastings Drive is technically designated as hazard land.

The package councillors were given included a list of the history of storms on Long Point, including one in 1955 that wrecked 70 cottages on Hastings Drive and resulted in the deaths of five people.

Elected officials said little during Tuesday's meeting but voted 5-2 in favour of allowing tents and trailers.

"I'm a property rights person," said Waterford Coun. Harold Sonnenberg. "I believe you should be able to do what you want on your property provided it is reasonable."

He said he is "in favour of full development," but the tents and trailers compromise was something he could support.

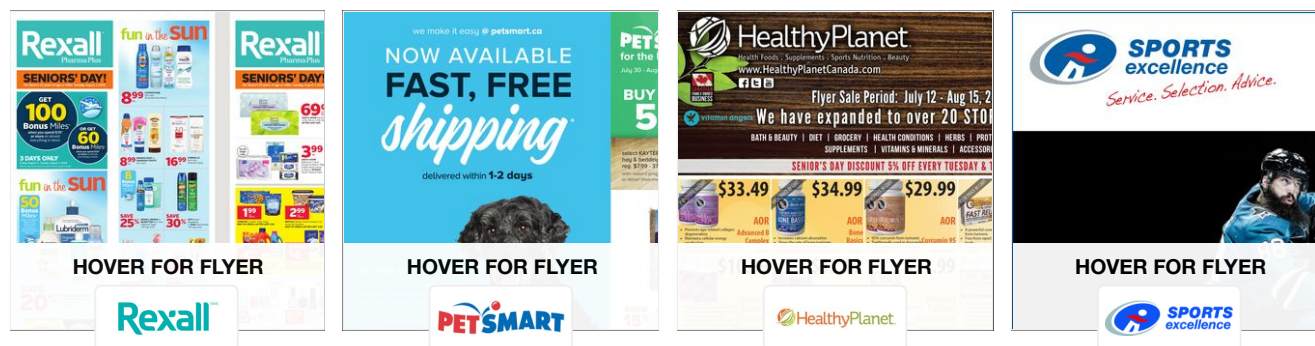
Simcoe Coun. Peter Black voted against the proposal and suggested a long list of conditions if the bylaw goes ahead. They included limiting trailer sizes and having property owners sign a document absolving the county of any legal liability for life or property.

Council spent nearly three hours on the matter and heard numerous presentations from the public whose opinions ran the gamut from allowing full development to barring any development in order to protect threatened species in the area.

Some of them noted that in May council had narrowed their choices to the tent and trailer option and a full-development option, then dropped the latter in a closed-door session without explanation.

DPearce@postmedia.com

This Week's Flyers



Local Businesses

[Advertise with us](#)

Contribute

Send Your Scoop!

Share your story, photo or video about something you've seen.

[Send your story.](#)

Subscription