



COMMUNIQUÉ
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Message to citizens

**THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REAFFIRMS ITS DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE
THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PEACEFUL, NATURAL CHARACTER
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WENTWORTH**

Wentworth, October 11th, 2019

In recent months, your Council has listened to its citizens, notably through public hearings and direct exchanges with the Municipality, to gather your comments and concerns about the Wentworth Integrated Tourism Resort (WITR) development concept.

At the end of this exercise, and in accordance with the very clear message that you have shared with your Council, yesterday evening your Council adopted a resolution (see attached document) to once again formally express our firm intention to protect the environment and the exceptional natural character of the Township of Wentworth in the future, regardless of the development project that could be presented to the Municipality.

A solid legal and regulatory framework

Following a consultation in recent weeks with the Urbanism Consulting Committee (UCC), your Council has judged that the relevant laws in force and our municipal By-Laws contain all the necessary provisions to adequately protect our environment, including Lake Louisa, the watershed, the heronry, the wetlands, the forest and fauna.

In the resolution adopted by your Council yesterday, we underline that the potential establishment of a golf course on our territory has raised a great deal of opposition and concern in our community. Therefore, other types of recreational activities, more in keeping with the vocation of our territory, should be favoured, such as hiking trails, cycling, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing.

Sharing in the concerns you have expressed, your Council also believes that a potential development project should be of a reasonable size that is consistent with Wentworth's peaceful, natural character.

In addition, as you will see in the resolution adopted yesterday, the promoter will have to provide a great deal of information that is still lacking to the Municipality, the MRC of Argenteuil, as well as the various government departments concerned, if it wishes to go ahead and submit a project for study and examination.



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Your Council would like to thank you for your participation and commitment during this process. In the coming months, rest assured that we will make every effort to maintain an open, respectful and constructive dialogue with our citizens on the evolution of this file, which we will follow with the utmost rigour.

Your Municipal Council

Source: Township of Wentworth

For information:

Natalie Black

General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer

Township of Wentworth

450 562-0701 (ext. 2926)

nblack@wentworth.ca



Copy of Resolution

TOWNSHIP OF WENTWORTH

Minutes of the regular meeting held October 7th, 2019 at the Wentworth Community Center at 86 Louisa Road in Wentworth.

Present are: Jason Morrison, Mayor
Bill Gauley, Councillor #2
David Smith, Councillor #3
Maurice Pilon, Councillor #4
Jay Brothers, Councillor #5
Gilles Ouellette, Councillor #6

Vacant seat: Councillor #1

The members present form the quorum.

19-10-166

Important Update from the Municipal Council

WHEREAS the concerns and comments of our citizens and community organizations gathered during the public hearings held on June 8th on the recreational tourism concept of Wentworth Integrated Tourism Resorts Inc., In the memoirs and written messages also deposited within the framework of this process of Public Hearings as well as in a large number of e-mails received directly by the Municipality through the Frequently Asked Questions on the Municipality's Website;

WHEREAS grouped together, a summary of these concerns and comments include certain specific issues relating mainly to:

- protection of the environment including Lake Louisa, the watershed and wetlands; the Heron site; and this, especially because of the possible impact of a golf course resulting from the potential use of pesticides and fertilizers;
- the impacts of a recreational tourism development on the local road network;
- the size of the development given the rural character of the Municipality;
- compliance by the developer with Municipal By-Laws and applicable Québec and Federal Laws;
- the approach of the Municipality in the management of the file.

WHEREAS following the summary report on the Public Hearings filed on June 23rd, 2019, several comments were received by the Municipality reiterating the importance of considering the points mentioned in the previous point (2), to take into account the point of view some community organizations; a red banner campaign and a petition filed on July 8th, 2019 with the Municipality expressing its opposition to a golf course and a large-scale real estate project in Wentworth;

WHEREAS the Municipality is waiting for more information from the promoter and the possible project (which is still not filed), including:

- the completion of a risk analysis to be deposited with the proposed project;
- a detailed road access plan (including their costs) that would be developed to access the site as well as the recreational and tourism development when it is put into operation, accompanied by a detailed analysis of the traffic flows expected during the works and during the activities of the site.
- the deposit of a list of investments in infrastructure and equipment required by the potential project, including a breakdown of costs for the site itself and those expected or required off-site
- the request for various permits required to carry out a possible project;
- a schedule of investments and works;
- the total cost of the investment related to the completion of the potential project;
- the financing structure and the financial partners involved;
- the partners that would be retained for the construction of the site and the demonstration of their capacity to carry out such a project;
- A detailed presentation of the past achievements of the developer elsewhere in the world.

WHEREAS

- the Municipal Council shares the well-founded and serious concerns of its citizens and community organizations about the importance of protecting the environment of the territory, including Lake Louisa, the watershed, wetlands, groundwater and surface water; Heron site; as well as the different animal and plant species present;
- the Municipal Council shares the desire of its citizens and the community to protect the natural and peaceful nature of the area;

THEREFORE it is proposed by Councillor Maurice Pilon and
RESOLVED

THAT potential projects should be of a reasonable size and respectful of the natural and peaceful nature of the Municipality;

THAT in order to comply with our Municipal By-Laws; the potential project must reduce impacts on the watershed, wetlands, forest, wildlife, landscape and the peaceful and natural character of the Municipality;

THAT a potential recreational and tourism development project respects in all points the Wentworth By-Laws (which includes the protection of Lake Louisa and the Heron site);

THAT the presence of a golf course does not generally appear to be desired in Wentworth and that other recreational activities would be preferred as alternatives, such as walking trails, biking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, etc.;

THAT the Municipality wishes to maintain an open and constructive dialogue with its citizens and is committed to take the time necessary to carry out a comprehensive analysis of any proposed project based on the comments and concerns it has received from its citizens.

Resolution unanimously adopted.

Natalie Black
General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer

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Given at Wentworth this 11th day of October 2019