

RCPE - Council revisions to By-Law 36-2001 - Property Standards

May 1, 2018

From the April 17th meeting of council a motion was passed for council to revisit the Property Standards By-Law, with what we believed would be the intent to make amendments that would suit the interests of the residents.

With this in mind, we are making the following requests of council and staff to adequately meet our concerns and expectations:

- ALL complaints to the Property Standards officer MUST be written complaints, made on the form as provided by the Township. These documents must be kept by the municipality for a duration of at least 10 years. If demanded by the property owner, proof of this complaint must be provided. If the township is concerned with retaliatory efforts against the complainant, then a redacted copy of the form or other similar proof must be made available.
- Under no circumstances, save and except for circumstances of grave emergency, will the Property Standards officer enter upon any property without first obtaining consent from the owner or obtaining a warrant granting access. If a filed complaint is not obvious to passerby or the complainant without trespassing upon the property, no measures shall be taken.
- In the event that consent is not granted and access to the Property was assumed under the guise of emergency concerns, and it is deemed that no emergency issue was present at the time of entry, NO order, evidence or measures undertaken shall stand.
- All Biosecurity requirements of any farm property will be adhered to, at all times. This includes all posted signs, verbal and/or written instructions. This shall apply to all lands within the township.

To this final point, we need to make it clear that despite the Mayor's assurances at the council meeting April 17th, we can find no mention of any considerations towards the biosecurity concerns of residents. Further to this point, we looked through the council minutes from past meetings, of which the Mayor mentioned there was consideration given, and can find no documented proof. We have also asked councillors whether they can recall anything to this end and they cannot. Whether verbal consideration was given or not, without documented proof we have no choice but to believe that the Mayor misled the residents, again, on this issue.

Be advised, we are paying attention, and as promised, expect to be heard!