

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Members of Council

From: Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services
Valerie Shuttleworth, Director, Planning & Urban Design



Date: June 20, 2006

RE: Street naming options in and around Box Grove

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum to the Mayor and Members of Council regarding "Street naming options in and around Box Grove" dated June 20, 2006, be received;

And that the recommendations in the staff report entitled "Consideration of the appropriate name for the existing 9th Line in the Box Grove Community", dated April 18, 2006, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The staff report to Development Services Committee dated April 18, 2006, titled "Consideration of the appropriate name for the existing 9th Line in Box Grove Community" (Appendix A) was deferred to the May 2, 2006 Development Services Committee meeting in order to provide notice to interested persons (see Appendix B).

At the May 2, 2006 meeting Committee discussed the merits of changing the name of the existing section of 9th Line that will be closed-off just south of Highway 407 and north of the point where the CP Rail, CN Rail and the 9th Line intersect. It was noted that further street name changes may be required following the completion of the Markham By-Pass to Steeles Avenue. It was also noted that street names must be clear and distinguishable in order to not cause confusion or lead to problems with emergency dispatch. A suggestion was made that if a name change is approved, the Town should cover any associated costs to residents. Committee also suggested that the Ward Councillor might conduct a public information session in order to gather feedback prior to any decision on the name change being approved. Subsequently the Ward Councillor advised that the matter was addressed at the well attended Box Grove Community Meeting on January 30th, 2006 and that he did not feel another community meeting to discuss this matter was necessary.

Committee recommended that consideration of the appropriate name for the existing 9th Line in the Box Grove community be referred to staff for further review and a report to Council or Committee of the Whole before the end of June. The report is to also review future alignments and potential street naming requirements in and around Box Grove. It was also recommended that Box Grove Boulevard be considered as a possible name for the redirected section of 9th Line (see Appendix C).

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSIONS

Renaming of the by-passed portion of 9th Line

Having regard for the discussions at the Committee meeting of May 2nd, staff reviewed the street naming options in and around the Box Grove area. Based on discussions with the Fire Department staff continue to be of the opinion that to avoid confusion for emergency services vehicles, particularly those emergency vehicles that do not regularly serve that local area, the realigned 9th Line which serves as the logical extension of 9th Line north of Highway 407 should be named 9th Line.

As noted in the previous staff report, some area residents have suggested that to solve the road continuity issue appropriate signage could be erected at appropriate locations on the realigned 9th Line indicating that “the 9th Line continues ‘X’ metres to the west”. As noted in the previous report, if “Old” 9th Line remained 9th Line, directional signage could result in more traffic on the isolated portion of 9th Line as a result of driver confusion, contrary to the purpose of the re-alignment, as people who are not familiar with the roads in the area may assume it is necessary to make a diversion to reach 9th Line in order to continue their trip south to Steeles Avenue, or north to Highway 7 or beyond.

Given the above it is recommended that the name “9th Line” be applied to the realigned 9th Line and that the discontinuous portion of 9th Line be renamed (see Figure 1).

Staff had previously suggested that in keeping with common practice across the Region the discontinuous portion of 9th Line be renamed “Old 9th Line”. Staff have again received confirmation from the Fire Department that the name Old 9th Line is an acceptable name for the by-passed portion of existing 9th Line. However, the name “Box Grove Boulevard” which has been reserved for some time is available for this purpose and is also an entirely acceptable name.

Naming options for the Town Arterial Road, Future Markham By-pass and 9th Line adjacent to CP Rail tracks and south to Steeles Avenue

With regard to the naming of other roads in the Box Grove area, the timing of road construction is a critical factor. Due to property acquisition and Environmental Assessment issues it is anticipated that the Town Arterial Road called for under the MOU with the Box Grove developers, to be constructed from the Markham By-Pass interchange southwesterly to the point where the realigned 9th Line intersects with the C.P. Rail line, will not be constructed before 2008. It is recommended that until this Arterial road is constructed, the portion of the 9th Line which parallels the C.P. Rail line and extending to Steeles Avenue should be named the name 9th Line. In fact, all of the realigned 9th Line, including the portion which parallel the C.P. Rail line, has been given the name 9th Line through subdivision registrations.

Once the “Markham By-Pass” or the Town Arterial Road is constructed in 2008 (or thereabouts) as either a Town or Regional road, the stretch of road from the Markham By-pass interchange at Highway 407 and extending to Steeles Avenue through the current 9th Line alignment could be renamed “Markham By-Pass” (see Figure 2).

Completion of the ultimate “Markham By-Pass” (subject to E.A. approval) to Steeles Avenue through Parkview Golf Course is not anticipated until at least 2012. Once this road is constructed the name “Markham By-Pass” could be applied to this ultimate alignment of the By-Pass and the stretch of road from the By-pass to Steeles Avenue, which is essentially the current 9th Line, could be renamed 9th Line or an alternate name (see Figure 3).

Region of York consulted

The roads in question are currently Regional roads and staff has consulted the Region of York regarding the naming options noted above. The Region has advised that they are in agreement with the options identified up to the 2012 time frame but have not commented on the appropriate names once the ultimate Markham By-Pass is in place. The Region has also indicated that the proposed naming options will require a report to Regional Council once the matter is addressed by Town Council.

In the immediate time frame the Region of York should be requested to transfer to the Town of Markham the portion of the existing 9th Line, north and south of 14th Avenue, which will be by-passed by the re-aligned 9th Line when the re-alignment becomes operational. Once this portion of 9th Line is transferred to the Town, Council can proceed to rename it, as appropriate.