

LPA Report - September 2012

Green House Lighting

A lighting situation at a newly constructed green house in Kingsville prompted me to contact Jackie Lassaline, recently hired as Kingsville Town Planner. It was a pleasant surprise when she replied with the most encouraging letter I've received to date from a municipal official. She wrote:

Thank you for your email. To introduce myself, I am a registered professional planner with 26 yrs of planning experience in the Province. As part of my recent past experience, I was Manager of Planning for the Township of The Archipelago (30,000 islands in Georgian Bay). As planner for the TOA, I became very well versed on the issue of the Dark Sky initiative and the wonderful strides undertaken to reduce the dark sky light pollution generated by development. As well, I am a hobby astronomer and have a significant parabolic telescope that has provided me hours of researching the night sky. I am extremely sensitive to the repercussions of development on the night sky.

When addressing a new development within the Town of Kingsville, site plan control applies. As the Manager of Development Services and the Senior Planner, I am responsible for managing the site plan review process. When dealing with the site plan applications, I am very cognizant of both the exterior and interior lighting requirements of the greenhouse while balancing the need to protect the Dark Sky. With all applications, I require: the exterior location of lights and details on the lights - shrouded, black outs, etc. Within the site plan agreement, I provide wording that the applicant commits to ensuring the lights for their development are 'full cut off standards with downward directional lighting'. Please refer to provision below that is an excerpt from the agreement.

"LIGHTING

9. Lighting - The Owner further agrees to provide a photometric plan and lighting product specifications, prepared by a qualified lighting consultant to the satisfaction of the Corporation's Chief Building Official for the lighting of any parking area and/or building located on the subject lands. Lights used for illumination shall be designed to full cut off standards and shall be arranged as to divert the light away from adjacent roadways and properties and minimize impact on the night sky. The Owner further agrees that any future proposed changes to lighting of the subject lands shall require the approval of the Corporation and may require an amendment to this Agreement."

I hope this puts your mind at ease about the Dark Sky initiative and that the Town is in fact endeavouring to protect this wonderful asset we have available to us in Essex County. Further, staff are actively pursuing the protection of the Dark Sky through wording within the registered site plan agreements.

Should you have any further questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Jackie Lassaline BA MCIP RPP
Manager of Development Services
Development Services Department
The Corporation of the Town of Kingsville

We met on August 2, to discuss the green house matter and light pollution in general. I came away with a great deal of confidence that Kingsville will uphold the lighting standards I worked on several years ago.

BTW, Jackie is keenly interested in our observatory and expressed her desire to attend one of our open houses.

County roadway lighting policy

This summer, the county's egregious roadway lighting policy arrived at our observatory. The county replaced the full cut-off fixture at the highway with a shallow sag lens unit. This means there is a new source of glare to overcome for observatory users. As Observatory Director, Dave Panton wrote a letter to the responsible administrators voicing objections to this intrusion. I hope to meet with these officials in the future to outline our position and request suspension of this wasteful program.

Highway 3 lighting

The intersection of Walker road and Highway 3 is under construction and temporary sag lens street lights were erected. As this is a provincial project I wrote Taras Natyshak MPP Essex, about the matter and asking for assurance that the permanent standards will be full cut-off. I have not heard back yet but this may be since the new standard are up but no luminaires are yet installed. This delay is taken as a hopeful sign as the contractor may be waiting for delivery of the FCO units.

Point Pelee

On the recent Point Pelee observing night I traversed the length of the park stopping at six locations at recording a set of SQM readings. While I was expecting a modest gradient moving away from the entrance, I was surprised by the rapidity of the decline. A map with these results is below.

