

Fw: Comments on Public Meeting-Thurs. Jan. 4th, 2024

Ruth McKeown <mckeown.dr@hotmail.com>

Thu 2024-03-21 4:41 PM

To: Rhonda Smith <Clerk@Temagami.ca>

Good afternoon Rhonda:

I hope you're keeping well.

Please forward my email below to the Mayor and Council Members.

The 1st transmission went to cyber-lala land, I guess.

Thank you-

Ruth McKeown

From: Ruth McKeown <mckeown.dr@hotmail.com>

Sent: January 12, 2024 11:50 AM

To: 'Margaret Youngs' <myyoungsart4you@gmail.com>

Subject: Fw: Comments on Public Meeting-Thurs. Jan. 4th, 2024

FYI-

From: Ruth McKeown <mckeown.dr@hotmail.com>

Sent: January 9, 2024 4:18 PM

To: Communicate <Communicate@Temagami.ca>

Subject: Comments on Public Meeting-Thurs. Jan. 4th, 2024

Good afternoon:

I'd like my message below to be sent to the Mayor and Council members please.

As a result of attending the Public Meeting on the Review of the Firearms By-law last Thursday evening, I'd like to suggest that the Council develop and approve a Public Meeting Protocols Template that clearly provides the protocols and remedies if the protocols are not followed, and the specific roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor in the Mayor's absence, the Council members and staff of the Municipality of Temagami in running Public meetings and engaging with members of the Public who attend and participate in them.

I found most of the proceedings of the meeting last Thursday unsettling, ineffective in meeting the goals of the meeting, and downright disrespectful and offensive in more than one circumstance. In my view, the meeting should have been shut down when this misbehaviour began.

There needs to be a time limit (5 -7 minutes per speaker) to prevent a few participants who like to speak from dominating the meeting. Participants who wish to speak must be required to give their name and community for the purpose of the Minutes and the Recording. Some participant/speakers present were not even from the Municipality of Temagami.

It was quickly apparent that nobody was designated as the moderator to manage and control the meeting, and to intercede in and quell aggressive, and disrespectful comments and behaviours of some participants toward a staff member and member of the public. This was shameful.

Those participants should have been asked to leave the meeting as there were two reminders by the Deputy Clerk to be respectful at the beginning of the meeting, and three attempts by the Deputy Mayor during the meeting to redirect the focus to the fact that there was already an existing Firearms By-law, established in 1992 and that the Council wanted to review and update with input from the public and other sources.

Another suggestion for Zoom Public meetings is to add a moderator also to manage the computer and Chat aspects of input. The Chat comments coming up on the screen are very distracting during the course of the meeting. Also, it would have been better to have visuals up of the speakers in the meeting.

I hope to see an improvement in the planning, purposes, management, and outcomes of future Public Meetings.

With best wishes for 2024.

Thank you,

Ruth McKeown
Temagami North, Ontario