

REVISED NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

CONCERNING AN AMENDMENT TO THE DISTRICT OF MUSKOKA OFFICIAL PLAN

***Please note that the previous notice incorrectly referenced a proposed draft plan of subdivision. This is a notice concerning a proposed Muskoka Official Plan Amendment and is not related to any proposed new development.**

Application File Number:
Muskoka Official Plan Amendment 58
(Public Participation and Consultation)

TAKE NOTICE THAT: The District of Muskoka Community and Planning Services Committee will hold a Public Meeting on:

Thursday January 18, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.
Council Chamber
District of Muskoka Administration Building
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO CONSIDER a proposed amendment to the District of Muskoka Official Plan of the Muskoka Area (Public Participation and Consultation) pursuant to the provisions of Sections 17, 22, 34 and 53 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990.

AN EXPLANATION of the purpose and effect of the proposed Official Plan Amendment accompanies this notice. This proposal pertains to the whole of the District Municipality of Muskoka.

ANY PERSON OR AGENCY may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Official Plan Amendment (OPA).

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC Feedback on the proposed OPA is strongly encouraged to be made in writing, preferably before the public meeting date, but will be accepted any time prior to a decision being made by The District of Muskoka Community and Planning Services Department at pedinfo@muskoka.on.ca. Members of the public or agencies wishing to make oral submissions either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed OPA may do so by attending the Council Chamber at 70 Pine Street. For those wishing to observe the proceedings (and not provide verbal comments), the District's webcast can be accessed at the following link: <https://video.isilive.ca/muskoka/live.html>

Written submissions may also be submitted at **any time until the date a decision is made**.

AGENCY COMMENTS: Agencies (i.e. District of Muskoka, Lower Tier Municipalities, Utilities, and Ministries) wishing to make a written submission should do so no later than January 17th, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE: All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.

INFORMATION ABOUT APPEALS

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the District of Muskoka to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The District of Muskoka before the proposed District official plan amendment is adopted; and, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision and/or may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

POSTING OF NOTICE AND NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION: If you wish to be notified of the decision of the District of Muskoka on the proposed District Official Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the District Clerk:

Amy Back, Clerk
District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3 (705) 645-2100
clerk@muskoka.on.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL, relating to the proposed official plan amendment is available as indicated below.

For more information about these matters, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact:

The District of Muskoka Community and Planning Services Department

70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3

In Person: By appointment only

Telephone: 705-645-2100 ext.4259

pedinfo@muskoka.on.ca

Please Note: All comments and submissions received will become part of the public record.

Dated at the Town of Bracebridge this 5th day of December, 2023.

EXPLANATION OF THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

The purpose and effect of proposed Muskoka Official Plan Amendment 58 (OPA 58) is to improve clarity and consistency in the public participation and consultation process relating to the three community newspapers in Muskoka that ceased to exist as print editions, as of September 2023. On September 15, Metroland Media Group announced that print editions of 70 community newspapers and flyer delivery businesses would cease across the province, three of which reside in local municipalities of the District of Muskoka. Print newspaper was the primary method to notify and disclose District planning applications, and therefore an update to Section M9 of the Muskoka Official Plan is required to establish alternative public circulation methods. The Planning Act provides municipalities with the ability to develop their own procedures for giving notice of a public meeting to consider various Planning Act applications (generally referred to as alternative measures) through amendment to the municipality's Official Plan, rather than following the prescribed regulations in the Act. The proposed amendment is to add a variety of alternative notification measures to Section M9, in accordance with the Planning Act including:

- i. personal service or prepaid first class mail;
- ii. e-mail;
- iii. public notice signs;
- iv. surveys, electronic or mail-out;
- v. neighbourhood open houses and/or public information centres;
- vi. neighbourhood working groups or focus groups;
- vii. information meetings;
- viii. statutory public meetings;
- ix. electronically circulated newspaper;
- x. District website or internet engagement platforms; and/or,
- xi. any other methods as deemed necessary by the District Clerk.