



Civic Addressing Bylaw – 5 Year Review 2024

Planning & Development Department

Planning Advisory Committee

December 10, 2024



EAST HANTS



Summary

- As part of the 5 year review of the Civic Addressing Bylaw (P-800) staff have reviewed Schedule A of the bylaw and have recommended amendments.
- Schedule A of the Civic Addressing Bylaw contains general principles and guidelines for the Civic Addressing Coordinator to determine what is an acceptable public street or private road name.
- Staff recommend an amendment to Schedule A to provide additional criteria that would prevent an offensive or distasteful name from being approved.



Discussion

- The current Schedule A of the Civic Addressing Bylaw contains the following Guidelines for naming public streets and private roads:
- A1. No name shall be duplicated including similar names that are differentiated by street type.
- A2. No street name shall sound like an existing name.
- A3. No street name shall contain numbers, special characters, decimals, hyphens, apostrophes, periods, or punctuations of any kind.
- A4. No street names shall incorporate product, trademark or copyright names.
- A5. Street names should be limited to 24 characters.



Discussion Cont.

- There are no guidelines included in schedule A that the name of a public street or private road name should be inoffensive to the public.
- Without an amendment, there is no mechanism to reject a submitted name that may be considered to be inappropriate.
- Staff have not been in a position where a name that could be viewed as inappropriate has been submitted for consideration.
- The amendment is recommended in order to mitigate the possibility of such a situation.



Jurisdictional Scan

- There are several approaches that municipalities take in regard to regulating the naming of public streets and private roads re: social acceptability.
- In some policies, there is no requirement that the proposed street name be “in good taste” or free of offensive language.
- The provincial road naming policy as well as Pictou County and Antigonish County road naming policies include the guideline that a submitted name must be “in good taste”.
- The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth’s Street Naming Policy includes the guideline “not to be offensive to the public and/or pose a safety concern”.



Jurisdictional Scan Cont.

- The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Municipal Street Naming policy goes into greater detail. Their policy section “Names to Avoid” has the following criteria:
 1. Names that could be construed as advertising a particular business; and,
 2. Cumbersome, corrupted, modified names, discriminatory or derogatory names from the point of view of race, sex, colour, creed, political affiliation or other social factors; and,
 3. Names with any sexual overtones, inappropriate humour, parody, slang or double meaning; and
 4. Names that have a secondary negative or offensive connotation



Discussion Cont.

- Staff recommend an amendment to the bylaw that falls between the guideline for a name to simply be “in good taste” and the detail that Niagara-on-the-Lake has would be appropriate.
- Staff also recommend a guideline that will align Schedule A with Parks, Recreation & Culture’s guidelines for naming public parks under their Parks Naming Policy.

The amendment proposed is to add the text shown below:

- A1. No name shall be duplicated including similar names that are differentiated by street type.
- A2. No street name shall sound like an existing name.
- A3. No street name shall contain numbers, special characters, decimals, hyphens, apostrophes, periods, or punctuations of any kind.
- A4. No street names shall incorporate product, trademark or copyright names.
- A5. Street names should be limited to 24 characters.
- A6. No street name shall be discriminatory, derogatory, or have a negative or offensive connotation.
- A7. No street name shall be a personal name such as a combination of given name and surname.



Discussion Cont.

- Staff also noted an error in subsection 8.1.c of the Civic Addressing Bylaw, where it references subsection 8.1.2. This subsection does not exist and should be notated as subsection 8.1.b.



Conclusion

- Staff recommend amending Schedule A of the Civic Addressing Bylaw to provide additional guidelines for public street and private road naming.
- The amendment will provide additional criteria for the Civic Addressing Coordinator in determining whether to accept or reject a proposed public street or private road name, and to prevent an offensive name from being approved. The amendment will also align the Civic Addressing Bylaw's naming guidelines with Parks, Recreation & Culture's guidelines for naming public parks.
- Staff also propose to amend a numbering reference in subsection 8.1.c to refer to the correct subsection 8.1.b.



Recommendation

That first reading be given to Bylaw P-800-2 Civic Addressing Bylaw, a bylaw to amend Bylaw P-800 Civic Addressing Bylaw.

Recommended Motions

The Planning Advisory Committee recommends to Council that Council:

- *Give first reading to Bylaw P-800-2, a bylaw to amend Bylaw P-800 Civic Addressing Bylaw*
- *Move that the Planning Advisory Committee recommends to Council that Council approves that notices related to bylaws may appear on the municipal website and on social media in keeping with updated provincial regulations.*