

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Part of 65 Brisbin Street (Z-9195)

- Councillor Cassidy: Thank you Mr. Hahn. Any technical questions for the Planner? Councillor Hopkins.
- Councillor Hopkins: Yes, thank you Madam Chair, I just want to confirm that I understand where the fence is. Is the fence just on the south side and it's just along the boundary between the two neighbours. Just want to confirm that I'm reading that right.
- Councillor Cassidy: Mr. Hahn?
- Daniel Hahn, Planner I: Through the Chair, the fence would be located at the southern limits of the requested, of the new zone boundary and the new property boundary so that would be, that would be in between the City-owned lands and the new zoning area so it wouldn't be in between the property lines of 81 and 83 Brisbin Street if that was the question.
- Councillor Cassidy: Thank you. Are there any members of the public here for this item? Come to the microphone, state your name and then you have five minutes.
- Bridgette Somers, Manager, Corporate Records: Yes, we have one speaker here in Committee Room 1.
- Ron Humphries, 81 Brisbin Street: Thank you. I thank the members of the Planning and Environment Committee for this opportunity to speak to the application, and although I'm standing here by myself, my lawyer, Marshall Mayne, put the application together and is actually viewing on your YouTube channel and is available on Zoom call if I need to make a phone call to him if you have some real difficult questions for me. In January 2016, I retired and my wife and I moved to London. I remember the first time we went through the house at 81 Brisbin, it had been all set up. We sat down in the house - my wife in the living room, I in the kitchen - and we said, "We'd love to live here". We met our neighbor who lived at 83 Brisbin, living at the other side of the driveway and we had an interesting visit with her, and we noticed the homes on Brisbin seemed to be well cared for. Only later did we discover the added bonus of the nearby Thames River, the walking trails and the Vauxhall and St. Julian parks. The house itself had been owned for several decades by the previous owner and it became necessary for him to move to a long term care home, the house was sold, the new owners completely renovated, and then sold the house to us one year later. Our new neighbor and I worked on several mutual projects, including replacing the fence at the bottom of the present driveway. She paid for the materials and I did the work. Sometime during our first summer in our new home, she pointed to a post in the driveway. Apparently, our neighbour's father who used to live there still owned the home and he had since passed away. He had put the post into the ground to indicate the property line. Even though the position of the post suggested that they owned almost two thirds of the front of the driveway, I was not too concerned as we were both just parking as if it was a normal side-by-side driveway. After about a year and a half, in September of 2018, she got a car for her niece who also lives with her, and now she had two cars to park in her driveway. She told me that I was only allowed to park at the entrance end of my driveway, and I insisted I bought the whole driveway and would park where I chose. She insisted that I only park with her permission. She then got the boundary line staked by a surveyor, and we hired a survey of our

land and it showed that, indeed, there was a problem in the driveway. It seems that in the early 1950's, two brothers bought the last two lots at the end of Brisbin on the West side. They built their houses with little concern as to the actual boundary line. Now the survey shows the houses were not built perpendicular to the street but on a slight angle. This leads 81 Brisbin, now my home, having only about a six and a half foot wide driveway at the entrance and almost nine feet wide at the fence. I then went to City Hall and spoke to Mark Conley at the City's Realty Services to ask about purchasing the vacant City land adjacent to the South of my home. On January of this year, we signed a conditional offer agreement with the City of London to purchase the land. This re-zoning is one of those conditions; the other condition has already been mentioned - the archaeological assessment and the 'R' plan have already been completed, and the final condition is the erecting of the one point five meter high fence, which will be completed after paving for the driveway has been done. I believe the fence will be along the South side and then at the back end of the property as well. I've already gotten a quote from London Paving to create a double driveway on the land, and another group - M. L. C. London Fencing - to install a fence along the new boundary. It's interesting to note that when the water and sewer lines on our street were marked last year, at least a couple of empty lots South of my house were marked as having service. At one time, there was a plan in place to use this land as residential. I want to conclude my remarks with a public thank you. Over the past year, I have visited, called and emailed several departments in City Hall. Every staff person I spoke with was professional, considerate and even caring about my situation. They went beyond what I had expected of them. Never did they simply say, "That's not my department". Instead, they listened to my concerns and then helped me to understand what department to speak to and what to expect from them. In one instance, the staff person even called several others on my behalf while I waited. I have felt that every person took their time to understand my situation and to help me towards a viable solution. I also want to thank Daniel Hahn for the extensive report he has prepared for you this afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to reconsider this re-zoning request, and I would be happy to answer any questions or give any further details as to the steps that I and my lawyers are taking to get us to this point in finding a resolution to the need for an accessible driveway.

- Councillor Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Humphries. Are there any questions for the applicant? I'm not seeing any. Are there any other members of the public who would like to speak to this matter? Any other members of the public for the Brisbin Street matter? I'm not seeing any, so I'll look for a motion to close the public participation meeting.