

Mayor Brocanier, Deputy Mayor Henderson and members of Council – thank you for the opportunity to come forward as a delegate on behalf of the Cobourg Ecology Garden Committee. While you are all aware of and very supportive of the Ecology Garden, I'd like to give some background as to our involvement with the Waterfront Study.

The Ecology Garden is located at the base of Hibernia Street, between Legion Village and the boardwalk. Since this area is an integral part of the waterfront, the Ecology Garden Committee was identified as a stakeholder during the early stages of the Waterfront Study and we presented to thinc design regarding the West Beach and West Beach Headland.

As the Waterfront User Needs Assessment process evolved, we also responded to the Stakeholder Survey and a number of members of our Committee, myself included, attended the public engagement sessions at the CCC.

Each of these sessions addressed a large number of initiatives. As such, there was little opportunity to discuss the issues related to the bulk of the elements of the Plan. Furthermore, responses to surveys were done in isolation. As a result, input to the Plan was based upon individual feelings rather than reflecting opinions that were formed after being presented with background information and hearing a variety of points of view.

The comprehensive document submitted by thinc design represents the first opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to review background information, documented concerns and resulting recommendations.

Based upon an initial, quick scan of the document, we feel that there are elements in the Detailed Design Plan that have the potential to open the door to commercialization of a natural, tranquil area that is very much enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and that is a safe haven for a multitude of local and migratory fauna.

As such, we request that Council continue the community engagement process and allow interested parties to provide feedback on this final step in the Study. To be specific, (and to reiterate previous delegates' comments), the Cobourg Ecology Garden Committee is requesting:

- That Council defer adoption of the Waterfront User Needs Assessment and Detailed Design Plan,
- That stakeholders and interested parties be given at least a month to review the draft document and to formulate feedback,
- That a public meeting be scheduled to present this feedback to Council and thinc design, and,
- If endorsed by meeting attendees, the Waterfront User Needs Assessment and Detailed Design be amended to incorporate this feedback prior to adoption by Council.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of these comments.

Dora Body
Chair, Cobourg Ecology Garden Committee