



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor Furniss and Members of Committee of the Whole

MEETING DATE: January 16, 2018

SUBJECT: Planning Department Activity 2017

RECOMMENDATION: None. For Committee’s information only.

<u>APPROVALS:</u>	Date	Signature
Submitted By: D. Pink, Director of Planning	<u>9/1/18</u>	<u>Original Signed By D. Pink</u>
Acknowledged: S. McDonald, CAO	<u>10/1/18</u>	<u>Original Signed By S. McDonald</u>

BACKGROUND

Please find attached a table showing the Planning Department’s Planning Act Application numbers for 2017. Application numbers were quite high in comparison to 2013-2015 and steady with 2016. These high planning numbers would be expected given the large amount of building permit activity and real estate transactions in 2017. In 2017, the total number of Official Plan Amendments (OPA’s), Zoning By-law Amendments (ZBA’s), Site Plans, Minor Variances, Consent Applications, Deeming By-laws, Condominium/Subdivision reviews, and Telecommunication Tower/Solar Farm reviews was 349.

Unfortunately, the number of Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) appeals in 2017 considerably increased in comparison to previous years, save for 2015 primarily related to the passage of Comprehensive Zoning By-law 2014-14. In total, 16 appeals to the OMB were submitted in 2017, including two to District of Muskoka Condominium Applications and not including multiple appeals where concurrent applications were appealed. This may be a result of upcoming changes to the Planning Act/Ontario Municipal Board Act, which staff understands has resulted in a large increase in appeals across the Province.

Planning staff were also able to present a Heritage Tax Relief By-law and program and Housekeeping By-law to By-law 2014-14 to Council, and has been heavily involved in the District of Muskoka Official Plan review, amongst many other special projects in 2017.

In addition to Planning Act Applications, staff’s main priority for 2018 will be dealing with the large number of OMB appeals, which each take a considerable amount of time. Staff also hopes to review the Site Plan Control By-law, continue to move forward with consideration of a Cottage Rental By-law/Licensing Program, and presentation of a Fence By-law, amongst others. Discussions on tourist resort policies as part of the District Official Plan review, several condominium proposals on resort properties, and review of the Minett zoning application also all appear to be significant items for 2018.

Planning Department
Planning Act Application Activity

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Official Plan Amendments	1	1	1	1	1
Zoning By-laws	61	69	58	48	33
Consents	90	83	67	54	111
Minor Variances	81	94	87	77	75
Site Plans	97	96	55	90	72
Deeming By-laws	14	10	13	4	6
Condominium/Subdivision Reviews	2	1	2	0	0
Telecommunication Towers/Solar Farm	3	1	4	3	3
Total	349	355	287	277	301
OMB Appeals	16	7	35 (18 for By-law 2014-14)	12	9
Municipal Record Searches	184	174	157	159	139