

1. Context

The village of Ayer's Cliff has begun the process of modifying the Zoning by-laws following the tabling, on April 3, 2023 during the meeting of the Municipal Council, of the first draft by-law number 2023-07 modifying Zoning by-law 2009-04, modifying the 1st draft by-law 2022-13 not adopted aiming to subject certain works to better management of runoff water.

This first project was the subject of a public consultation on April 24, 2023 in accordance with the rules of the Act respecting land use planning and development and health measures of the Minister of Health and Social Services.

During the public consultation, the officials present made sure to provide the explanations necessary for the understanding of the draft by-law to the population present. The officials also heard the people, groups and/or associations wishing to express themselves on this subject. At the end of this consultation process, the officials prepared this report, which presents the terms of the public consultation, a summary of the proposals, comments or recommendations made as well as the modifications it proposes, if applicable.

2. Responsible for public consultation

In accordance with the Act respecting land use planning and development, the Municipal Council has planned a public consultation to hear the opinions of the population. The public assembly was held by the Environmental Inspector and Project Manager, Mrs. Éline Leblanc and was also present the Mayor, Mr. Simon Roy as well as the municipal councillors, Mrs. Nancy Vanasse, Mrs. Caroline Paul, Mrs. France Coulombe, Mr. Michael Crook, Mr. Patrick Proulx and Mr. Peter McHarg.

3. Main steps and modalities of the public consultation

Following its adoption on April 3, 2023, the draft by-law was made available for public consultation at Ayer's Cliff Town Hall, located at 958 Main Street in Ayer's Cliff.

The draft by-law was also the subject of a notice published on the Municipality's website and posted on the municipal bulletin boards located at the Town Hall, outside the Town Hall. This notice included a brief summary of the draft by-law and specified the availability of the documentation relating to the draft by-law as well as the relative amendments to the draft by-law and which were available at the town hall, during business hours, as well as by email, on request at dg@ayerscliff.ca.

The municipality has offered the following methods of participation to citizens in order to ensure the participation of as many people as possible:

- Public meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in person at the community center, at 176 rue Rosedale in Ayer's Cliff or virtually via the Zoom platform.

The public meeting was accompanied by a screen projection of the draft bylaws as well as paper documents of the draft bylaws. Due to technical problems, the visual support could not be presented in full but will be available on our website for consultation.

The public intervention period and the discussions with those in charge took place with flexibility and respect. There were a total of 15 participants who attended the public consultation and 3 participants who could not be admitted online on Zoom due to technical problems.

4. Main observations collected

Theme	Comment	Change/Rationale
Comment	Great improvement in the regulations and very clear intention to slow down the input of sediments into the lake	
Question	Where does the 15L/s/ha standard come from and why ask for an engineering plan for the construction or reconstruction of a residence, it seems demanding?	Plans are currently required for stormwater management under the Interim Control Regulation (ICR) from the MRC for all work located on slopes of 15% or more for all structures. Our experience with this type of request teaches us that even with an engineer's report, it is difficult to obtain a good adequate stormwater management plan, which is why we insert the standard of 15L/s/ha, standard used by other municipalities and MRCs. For us it is clear that a receiver must be calculated by an engineer authorized to design stormwater management works. Our experience also teaches us that including water management from the start fits very well for new construction and helps owners become aware of the water management detail that is often overlooked and often problematic even for the residence itself. Sound stormwater management is also important, especially near waterways and the lake.
Question	Is it possible to collect roof water in a rainwater jar?	Yes, the regulations allow the use of a rainwater barrel.
Question	For flat roofs, isn't the norm in the municipality to direct the water into a stormwater network?	It is forbidden to discharge its water into a sanitary or unitary network but it is not compulsory to discharge its

		<p>water into the storm. Moreover, our current regulations provided that:</p> <p><i>“All rainwater intercepted by a flat roof for any type of building, must be channeled towards a French serpentine drain or directed into a retention basin specifically built on the ground, allowing the regulation of the flow of runoff water in the municipal storm sewer.”</i></p>
Question	<p>Why ask to maintain the retention works? Sees it as problematic that we return the sediment to the lake.</p>	<p>Current best practice for managing ditches and culverts is that some maintenance is done to avoid clogging the structure. The sediment is then removed with a shovel. An accumulation of sediment would prevent the sedimentation structure from carrying out its full sediment retention work in the long term.</p>
Question	<p>Regarding runoff water from the top of the mountain on Main Street, during periods of intense rain, overflows can be observed on the road. Who will be responsible for its rainwater?</p>	<p>Ditch overflows on the Main are the responsibility of the MTQ.</p> <p>On the other hand, it is a fine example which demonstrates that ditches are not sufficient to manage heavy precipitation and that precipitation must also be managed at the source in order to reduce the quantity and intensity of water that flow into ditches. Work must be done on both sides of the flow line to minimize the consequences of heavy precipitation.</p>
Comment	<p>A citizen would have appreciated it to have a mention on the maintenance of the riparian strips in the regulation which are currently too narrow and the maintenance of the trees on the territory. Also, it would have been good to put requirements for revegetation of retention structures.</p>	<p>The municipality plans to optimize the ditches currently on our territory by adding more vegetation. However, no vegetation component has been provided for under the stormwater management regulations at this time. Since the maintenance of vegetation does not only cover the management of rainwater, this could be discussed within</p>

		the current requirements of wooded cover, for example, or the minimum width of the riparian protection strip.
Question	Since when is the regulation in effect frozen? And before that a lot of asphalt was installed on the territory. Would it be possible to have awareness campaigns aimed at citizens to make them aware of the importance of permeable places.	Since April 3. During Green Day on May 20 at Parc Massawippi, members of the CCE will discuss this subject with citizens. There are also awareness campaigns planned following the adoption of the by-law in order to make citizens aware of the importance of retention measures, such as the preservation of vegetation and retention structures.
Question	Is an engineer's report required for the construction or reconstruction of a residential parking lot?	No
Comment	Do we have to manage the neighbours' water?	No. The retention structure should be planned solely on the basis of being equal to or less than the maximum discharge rate that prevailed under pre-development conditions.
Comment	Most of the sediment that enters the lake comes from rivers and streams	It should be understood that the development of impermeable surfaces increases the amount of water in rivers, streams and ditches and that is when erosion occurs and sediments are brought in by erosion. Naturally and or artificially, runoff will tend towards streams and ditches, which will carry sediment and increase the volume of water in the watercourses, which will also produce erosion pressure. In a river not under demographic pressure for development, the quantity of sediment brought to the lake is negligible.

5. Conclusion

The managers would like to thank all the people, groups and associations who took the time to participate in the process of consultation set up as part of the adoption process for draft by-laws number 2023-07. The changes made for the final version of the regulations will take into consideration the proposals and comments resulting from the public consultation if the first draft is adopted.