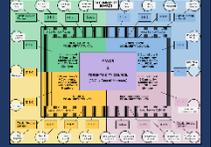




DISCUSSION PAPER

TORONTO COMMUNITY BOARDS



DRAFT LEGISLATION

Toronto Municipal Code

CHAPTER 24 - COMMUNITY DISTRICTS AND COTERMINALITY OF SERVICES

CHAPTER 25 – COMMUNITY BOARDS

CHAPTER XX – TERM LIMITS

March 16, 2014 - Revised April 11, 2014

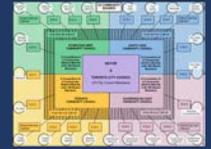
By Peggy Moulder





DISCUSSION PAPER

TORONTO COMMUNITY BOARDS



INTRODUCTION

The City of Toronto Act, Sections 141 through 147, provide the “Power to establish city boards”.

<http://www.canlii.org/en/on/laws/stat/so-2006-c-11-sch-a/latest/so-2006-c-11-sch-a.html>

In the late 1960's New York City created Community Boards *“to encourage and facilitate coterminous community districts and service districts to be used for the planning of community life within the city, the participation of citizens in city government within their communities, and the efficient and effective organization of agencies that deliver municipal services in local communities and geographic areas.”*

New York City Community Boards have functioned satisfactorily for the past 45 years, and the legislation governing the New York City Community Boards is found in the New York City Charter, Chapters 69 and 70. These chapters are the model and basis for drafting similar legislation found in this document to be added to the City of Toronto Municipal Code to provide Community Boards for the residents and citizens of Toronto.

Formalizing “community consultation practices” is now an imperative for the City of Toronto, and this can be done through the implementation of Community Boards. In fact, there is probably no better way to ensure “community consultation” is done well, is respectful to citizens, and has positive impact on our communities and city management and operations.

The subject of New York City Community Boards was brought to my attention by the former Toronto Chief Planner, Paul Bedford. He recently contributed the subject of Community Boards to the Toronto Star's “Big Ideas” out-reach to Toronto residents. In 2010, Mr. Bedford gave a presentation to the Munk School of Global Affairs discussing the possibility of Community Boards for Toronto, which was video-taped. Links to these two items are found below.

http://www.thestar.com/bigideas/experts/2014/02/14/torontonians_make_love_to_your_city_paul_bedfords_big_idea.html

<http://hosting.epresence.tv/MUNK/1/watch/185.aspx>

To assist your review of the draft legislation for Toronto Community Boards, **Part I** of this Discussion Paper contains “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) and attempts to imagine the important questions citizens would have on this topic.

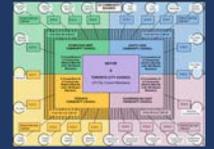
Part 2 contains the draft legislation for Toronto Community Boards and the clauses in the document are referenced in the FAQ section. The draft legislation document includes two chapters. You may wish to read Chapter 25 first, since it describes how Community Boards are appointed and what they do.

CHAPTER 24 - COMMUNITY DISTRICTS AND COTERMINALITY OF SERVICES
CHAPTER 25 – COMMUNITY DISTRICT BOARDS



DISCUSSION PAPER

TORONTO COMMUNITY BOARDS



An additional resource for your review is the NYC 2010 Handbook for Community Board Members. It has been extensively expanded and edited over the many years since its first edition in 1978. Most importantly, it has been read and used as a reference by thousands of community board members over the past four decades. It, no doubt, will assist in the future creation of a Handbook for Toronto Community Boards.

http://bronxboropres.nyc.gov/communityboards/handbook_2010.pdf

Part 3 contains draft legislation concerning Public Policy and Term Limits for our elected officials, and, once again, is based on the New York City Charter. The draft legislation for term limits contains only two clauses. The importance and relevance of this legislation to citizens and communities is:

“...so that elected representatives are “citizen representatives” who are responsive to the needs of the people and are not career politicians.”

One further piece of legislation needs to be drafted and added to ensure good management of our municipal government; that is, provisions to “Recall” elected officials who do not follow the mandate given to them by voters. Bill 124 is currently before the Ontario legislature *“to amend the Election Act with respect to the recall of members of the Legislative Assembly”*. This Bill and other existing legislation can be used to create Recall legislation for Toronto municipal government.

There is current provincial legislation being considered to eliminate the role of the Ontario Municipal Board to hear appeals of Planning decisions made by Toronto City Council. This coincides with proposed City legislation to create their own appeal boards. Citizens are also concerned about decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment on minor variances and severances which do not appear to be “minor”. Toronto Community Boards will greatly assist citizens and neighbourhood associations in providing the opportunity for discussion with city staff in various departments on a regular basis, and providing input that is coordinated, well-informed and will be heard at Toronto City Hall.

There is the further potential for Community Boards to replace the Committee of Adjustment. Alternatives to political appointments to appeal boards are “pools” of qualified persons who are chosen at random, similar to the selection of juries for the courts and coroner inquests. The Toronto Official Plan, Zoning and other legislation are “plain language” legislation created with input from citizens. There are opportunities for online education, followed by classroom education, that would benefit citizens, council members, planners, city staff, appeal board members, and developers.

An example of online education on the “Toronto Official Plan” can be found at:

www.torontocommunityquiz.com

The questions in the multiple-choice quiz do not yet cover the entire Official Plan, and it is currently only compatible with “windows” software. However, it provides a sampling. Test your knowledge and take the quiz. You will be provided with a “certificate” on completion!