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To: Mayor Trevor Bazinet <tbazinet@goderich.ca>; Leah Noel <lnoe@goderich.com>; Liz Petrie <lpetrie@goderich.ca>; Randy Carroll <rcarroll@goderich.ca>; John Thompson <jthompson@goderich.ca>; Allison Segeren <asegeren@goderich.ca>; Vanessa Kelly <vkelly@goderich.ca>

Subject: Removal of Citizen's Q&A opportunity at Town Council meetings

27.8. Public Forum

A person may provide comments to Council Members during the Public Forum provided that all persons participating adhere to the following practices:

- The Person (Speaker) providing comments must give their name prior to the Chair of council prior to speaking;
- Speakers comments must be related to an item on the current agenda; and
- Speakers are limited to a time period of two (2) minutes.

The Chair may curtail any speaker for disorder or any other breach of this by-law.

Members of Council and staff will hear the comments, but not enter into discussion or debate, either with other Members of Council or with members of the publ

By-law 118 of 2024 passed Dec 16 2024 removed the slot at the end of Town Council meetings for Citizens to stand up and ask questions face to face or virtually, provide input or express an opinion to Council. It has been replaced with Public Forum.

Severe restrictions are now in place by our elected officials that greatly minimize the ability of residents to freely participate without prejudice at meetings.

- A 2 minute limit.

- Council will not discuss or answer any comment or question a resident has asked.

Previous Councils have encouraged citizens to not only attend meetings but to participate and bring forward suggestions and concerns. And have been asked to not use social media to identify community concerns, but use the Town Council meeting process for an answer or closure.

Repeatedly Council members have said this.

Myself, I have many times suggested this to people and to those who have posted negative comments "go to the Town Council meetings, raise it there."

Sadly, I can no longer offer this.

Why? Town Council appears to no longer want community input. And is a way to avoid conflict, make meetings shorter. It is a blatant backward step to transparency and open communication.

Goderich Town Council no longer encourage residents to participate in Town proceedings by implementing these restrictions. Social media posts will increase with chaos.

Alternative? Send emails, phone calls ? Narrows the audience substantially and the option for open and face to face dialogue.

My personal opinion, a 2 minute limit AND without any discussion I find insulting.

Please add to the next Town Council meeting agenda and discuss.

Suggestion: If the avenue now for residents to communicate with Town Council is largely electronic, website, emails etc. suggest a video posted on the Town Facebook page, and the Town website, illustrating how to navigate to the Calendar, select a date, the meeting agendas and how to view attachments.

Laurie Moore

Goderich resident