

THE PLANNING ACT

The Planning Act requires Council and Committee decisions to be consistent with provincial policy statements, conform with provincial plans and policies in effect, and uphold provincial interests.

PLANNING STAFF

Town Planning Staff are accredited professional planners with education and experience who balance policy directions and objectives, and resident input and feedback to provide recommendations in the public interest.

TYPICAL PLANNING PROCESS

Applicant meets with Town Staff for a Pre-Consultation Meeting

Applicant submits complete Planning Act application

Planner circulates application for review to
Town Staff, Agencies and the Public

Reviewers provide comments back to the Planner

Public Meeting held to gather feedback from the public

Potential changes made to the application by the Applicant,
as a result of review and feedback

Staff Report with recommendation provided to Planning Committee

Council may decide to approve, refuse or modify the application

The Application is subject to an appeal period. If no appeals are received,
the decision of Council/Committee is final

CODE OF PRACTICE

Planners are required to follow a national and provincial Professional Code of Practice, Ethics and Conduct, and practice in an ethical and responsible manner.

PLANNING REVIEW

Planning review of all applications follows the policies and rules of Province, Region, and Town.

ONTARIO

NIAGARA

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

ADAPTING PLANS

In 2023, the Province changed many planning policies in Ontario, which all planners and Council Members are adapting to.



DECISION MAKING

When making a decision, Councillors and Committee Members consider all available information and Staff recommendations, while balancing policies to represent the community's best interest. It is important to consider the needs of both the current residents, as well as future generations, when building a community.



OFFICIAL PLAN

An Official Plan is a policy document that sets out a vision and goals for the future. It ensures that new growth and development considers a broad range of interests and perspectives.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we believe in fostering a welcoming and safe environment for our customers and staff, and thank you for joining us in this effort by treating others with respect and dignity. Bullying, verbal abuse, discrimination or any threat of violence will not be tolerated.