Council Direction:

Council, at its meeting of July 12, 2013, directed staff to ensure that inflatable pools are included in the current review of the Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law.

Information:

In response to the above noted direction, the Building Services Division can provide the Planning Committee with the following information. At the present time inflatable pools, which are capable of holding water to a depth greater than 300 mm (11 ¾ inches) and beyond a volume of 4,550 litres (1,000 gallons), are regulated under the Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law (By-law 03-125) and would require a fence enclosure constructed in accordance with the current Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law regulations.

As background information the Building Services Division presented an Information Report to the Planning Committee on July 9, 2013 (Report PED13126) which stated that our Division is currently in the process of reviewing and updating the Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law in order to address the following recommendations from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario in their Drowning Review Report from 2011:

“1. All municipalities in the Province of Ontario should pass pool enclosure municipal by-laws that mandate barrier safety requirements for new pools including in-ground, above-ground, portable, inflatable and hydro-massage pools, hot tubs and spas as well as decorative ponds such that when they are installed;
• they are surrounded by 4-sided fencing that completely encloses the pool area;
• the pool enclosure bylaw applies to all structures with a water depth of at least 0.6m (2 feet);
• they allow entry and exit through a self-closing and self-latching gate only;
• the 4-sided fencing be a minimum height of 1.22m (4 feet);
• the bylaw specifies that fence construction should inhibit climbing;
• the home should never open into a pool area.

2. All municipalities in the Province of Ontario should pass pool enclosure municipal by-laws that mandate retrofitting for existing pools as defined by 2015 to the standards as in recommendation #1 above.”

As noted in the first recommendation, inflatable pools will be one of the items staff will be including in their review of the Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law.

Staff intend to present a full report, together with a proposed Swimming Pool Enclosure By-law, to the Planning Committee no later than November 2013.

JC:sc