



## **Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting**

Virtual Conference  
September 16, 2020

**Present:** Councillor Metcalfe, Henk Lise (Chair), Stuart Heeg (Vice-Chair), Ron Young, Richard Blyleven, Nick Kinkel (OMAFRA), Jordan Fowler, Rick Armstrong, Bruce Armstrong, Stephanie Campbell-Heron

**Staff:** Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Shannon VanDalen, Manager of Planning and Development, Adam Chamberlain, Project Manager of Forestry, Ashley Taylor, Planner, Alison Earls Senior Economic Development Officer & Breanna Beauchamp, Division Support.

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Meeting called to order by Chair Henk Lise at 6:02 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

### **2. Comprehensive By-Law Review**

A. Taylor provided an overview on the new comprehensive zoning by-law to the committee highlighting the provisions that will be carried forward and the addition of new provisions that will be introduced relating to agriculture.

- Provisions that will carry forward relating to agriculture in the new comprehensive zoning by law include use of land, building or structure for agriculture use, farm stands, farm produce outlet, agriculture-related processing, bed and breakfast establishments, cannabis production facility, exemption from height provisions, and home based businesses- including home offices, home occupations, and home industries.
- Provisions relating to agriculture that will be introduced in the new comprehensive zoning by-law include on-farm diversified uses, commercial greenhouses, garden suites, natural environment overlay, and secondary suites.

A discussion then ensued.

### **3. Forest Conservation By-law Update**

A. Chamberlain provided a brief overview of the new forest conservation by-law and proposed changes and updates. The purpose of the by-law is to:

- Achieve the County's Official Plan objective to preserve and improve Woodlands through the application of Good Forestry Practices;
- Encourage the production of wood, wood products and sustaining the local forest economy;
- Minimize the injury or destruction of trees in Woodlands; and
- Contribute to ecosystem health, human health, recreation, enjoyment and improving quality of life through the conservation of Woodlands.

The committee addressed concern about the communication, and feedback from the agricultural representatives during the by-law review process.

A discussion then ensued.

#### **4.0 Council Update**

Councillor Metcalfe provided an update from Council. Key highlights included:

- In person Council Meetings have resumed with additional COVID-19 safety precautions
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Dedication for new building open house will be re-scheduled at a later date.
- Ongoing McKenzie Meadows issues

#### **5.0 Approval of Minutes**

Moved by B. Armstrong and seconded by R. Young that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated January 15, 2020 be approved as presented at 7:16 pm.

**APPROVED**

#### **6.0 EDT Update**

L. Romanuk provided an update on the Economic Development and Tourism Division since the last committee meeting in February, key highlights included:

- Overview of timeline including the declared state of emergency on March 24th , Haldimand County staff COVID-19 Lay off on April 27th, and return to work date for EDT staff members in June.
- BDAPAC Concerns and Recovery Priorities to re launch the economy which included marketing and advertising, resources and information provision to local businesses, Covid-19 BRE Survey and outreach to local businesses, regulation and program enhancements and actions to date.
- Overview of Initiatives which included the patio program extension, the 'Real. Local.' advertising campaign, Digital Main Street and the implementation of a digital service squad (DSS), Haldimand County Online Community Marketplace, Great Taste of

Ontario Road Trip, and an update on the development of Business Facebook and Tourism Instagram.

**7.0 Adjourned at 8:06 pm**

**8.0 Next Meeting**

November 18th, 2020

Time and Location to be determined.