



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

Haldimand County Administration Building

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Present:** Councillor Metcalfe, Henk Lise (Chair), Stuart Heeg (Vice-Chair), Bruce Armstrong, Ron Young, Richard Blyleven, Jordan Fowler Nick Kinkel (OMAFRA), Stephanie Campbell-Heron, Rick Armstrong, Louise Heyming (GRCA), Sue Brocklebank (GRCA), Matt Reniers.

**Staff:** Mike Evers, General Manager of Community & Development Services, Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Shannon VanDalen, Manager of Planning & Development, Alison Earls Senior Economic Development Officer, and Breanna Beauchamp, Division Support.

**Regrets:** None

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

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes and Business Arising**

Moved by S. Heeg and seconded by R. Blyleven that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be approved as presented at 6:05 pm.

**APPROVED**

### **3. Rural Water Quality Program Upcoming Projects**

L. Heyming then presented four Rural Water Quality Projects for the committee's approval.

File # 3- Erosion Control Structure project was presented.

Moved By R. Blyleven, and seconded by J. Fowler that the project be approved totaling \$1500.00 at 6:13 pm.

**APPROVED**

File #112 Tree Planting project was presented.

Moved by S. Heeg and seconded by J. Fowler that the project be approved totaling \$5000.00 at 6:17 pm

**APPROVED**

File # 112- Fencing project was presented.

Moved By R. Blyleven, and seconded by S. Campbell-Heron that the project be approved totaling \$5,000 at 6:21 pm.

**APPROVED**

File #113 Well Decommissioning project was presented.

Moved by S. Heeg and seconded by S. Campbell-Heron that the project be approved totaling \$1000.00 at 6:28 pm

**APPROVED**

#### **4. Agriculture Impact Study Presentation**

Shannon VanDalen, Manager of Planning & Development provided an introduction and an overview of the Official Plan update to the committee, noting the upcoming open house events (listed below), and welcomed feedback from the committee on the presentation.

Matt Reniers of Matt Reniers and Associates, delivered a presentation on the Haldimand County Official Plan Update: Agriculture Impact Study to the committee. The presentation was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting to ensure detailed review, key highlights included:

- An overview on the Official Plan and Growth Strategy for Haldimand County including provincial requirements.
- The presentation included a review of the proposed boundary changes and the impact to the County's agricultural system. Information on the agricultural land base, soil quality, expansion and justification required if expansion/changes are made to the settlement areas was also shared with the committee as well as the total net impact of urban growth strategy on lands within urban areas.
- The primary study areas and changes were provided including Caledonia, Dunnville, Hagersville, Jarvis and Townsend and alternative development areas.
- The recommendations of the Agricultural Impact Study include:
  - Approve boundary adjustments- expansions and contractions
  - New developments-plan for the interface between urban development and farmlands including fencing, set backs, buffer strips, to use roads where possible, and subdivision design.
  - Mitigate impact of development on existing livestock operations.
- Next Steps/ Upcoming Workshops:
  - Growth Strategy Amendment –Council June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 (tentative)
  - Phase 2 Completion –December 2021
  - Natural Heritage System & Hazard Lands Workshop –May 13<sup>th</sup> 2021
  - Virtual Workshop Phase 2 –June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021

M. Reniers advised a second meeting with the committee will be planed to review other issues like surplus farm dwelling severances, on farm diversified uses etc. M. Reniers then opened the floor to the committee for questions and comments.

The committee asked for clarification on the total net impact of urban growth strategy on lands within urban areas.

M. Reniers confirmed that the net impact on Urban areas was 54 (ha.)

A discussion then ensued.

Moved by R. Blyleven and seconded by S. Heeg that the Agricultural Advisory Committee approves the Agriculture Impact Study Draft Report as presented on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:14 pm.

**APPROVED**

## **5. Council Update**

Councillor Metcalfe provided an update on Council activities including Phase 2 of the Official Plan, continued virtual Council meetings, update on burn permits, and an update on the rural broadband project.

A discussion then ensued.

## **6. New Business**

H. Lise delivered a presentation on The Emily Project that the Chair is scheduled to present to Council at the upcoming Council in Committee meeting on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

J. Fowler inquired on the cost of the The Farm 911 signs and where these signs would be placed on the property.

H Lise responded that the signs will be placed at any entry/ driveway that the property owner chooses, and the cost per sign for 2021 is currently \$109.61.

Nick Kinkel then provided a brief update on OMAFRA including additional funds towards the Canadian agricultural partnership program, and reviewed agricultural economic data with the committee.

L. Romanuk suggested that the committee look further into the agricultural economic data, and utilize this information for the SWOT analysis for the agriculture strategy discussed in the 2021 work plan.

A discussion then ensued.

## **7. EDT Update**

A. Earls provided an EDT Update, key highlights included:

- Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Strategic Plan Survey
- Ontario Federation Agriculture: Enhancing Capacity for the Next Generation of Agricultural and Rural Leaders In Ontario Survey

A discussion then ensued.

## **8. Adjourned at 7:58 pm**

## **9. Next Meeting**

July 21, 2021 from 6pm to 8pm  
Location to be determined.