



Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Haldimand County Administration Building
July, 20 2022

Present: Councillor Metcalfe, Ron Young, Stuart Heeg, Bruce Armstrong, Stephanie Campbell-Heron, Richard Blyleven

Staff Alison Earls, Senior Economic Development Officer and Jessica Easson, Main Street Ambassador .

Regrets: Nick Kinkel (OMAFRA), Jordan Fowler, Rick Armstrong, Henk Lise

1. Welcome and Introduction

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Stuart Heeg at 6:09 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Bruce Armstrong and seconded by Richard Blyleven that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated March 16th, 2022, be approved as presented at 6:15 pm.

APPROVED

3. Council Update

Councillor Metcalfe provided an update on Council activities including road resurfacing and granular road conversion programs, and the rural broadband project.

The Committee identified concerns over road conditions impacting farm vehicles and equipment.

A discussion then ensued.

4. AMO Feedback on Agriculture Sector

A. Earls facilitated a discussion regarding the upcoming Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Meeting. At the AMO Meeting, Haldimand Council will have the opportunity to meet with Provincial Ministers to discuss local concerns. The Agriculture Advisory Committee were asked to provide their feedback to bring forward to the Minister of Agriculture. Through the discussion, the Committee identified their top two concerns being: the loss of farm land, and the need for processing opportunities in the area.

5. 2022 Work Plan Review

During the March meeting, the Committee identified and discussed the top two work plan priorities. The two top priorities identified from the Committee were attracting youth to the agricultural sector, and increasing processing opportunities. Continuing on the discussions from the last meeting, A. Earls facilitated a session on ways to implement the work plan for the next term. Key Highlights from the discussion included:

Attracting youth in the agricultural sector

- *Building on existing agriculture events in the community* – The Committee suggested increasing promotions for existing programs (i.e. Agstravaganza). The Committee also noted the importance of developing programs which help youth develop relevant agriculture skill sets (i.e. 4-H programs) and build networks.
- *Promoting local agricultural careers to students and Increasing awareness of agricultural employment opportunities* - The Committee noted efforts should be made to increase awareness of diversity in careers. They proposed integrating agriculture and food production practices into school curriculum.

Increasing Processing Opportunities

- *Promoting workforce opportunities for our abattoirs and other processors*
- *Attracting new processing opportunities to the county*
- *Increase educational opportunities for farmers*

Action Item: The Committee felt that further conversation should include members that sent regrets. The Committee will review and finalize the work plan at the next scheduled Committee meeting.

6. EDT Update

A. Earls then delivered an EDT update, key highlights included:

- Circular Food Program
- Rural Business and Tourism Improvement Program
- The Emily Project Update
- Committee of Council Application Process for next term

A discussion then ensued.

7. New Business

Roadway Safety – Councilor Metcalfe had initiated a discussion about roadway safety and the importance of education around farm vehicles. A discussion then ensued.

Official Plan Phase Two – A. Earls advised that phase two of the Official Plan will be presented at the next Council in Committee Meeting, August 23, 2022.

Nanticoke Development Update – A. Earls advised that staff have not received an update from the Province regarding the Ministry Zoning Order application and will advise the Committee when further information becomes available. A discussion then ensued.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm

9. Next Meeting

(Tentatively) September 21st from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Haldimand County Administrative Building