



## Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

**Date:** January 17, 2022  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Electronic Participation only

**Present:** Mayor Bailey, Councillor Miller, Members Guest, Hodge, McIntyre, Tully, and Tunstall (1:08 p.m.)

**Regrets:** Member VanSickle

**Staff:** Duesling, Vaughan, Boyer, Kitchen, Kortleve, Labelle, Schaeffe, Dyjach and Davis

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### 2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Deputy Clerk called for nomination for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Member Guest nominated Member Hodge. Member Hodge accepted. There were no more nominations.

Moved by – Mayor Bailey

Seconded by – Councillor Miller

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be closed.

**Carried**

The Deputy Clerk called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Member Tully nominated Member Guest. Member Guest accepted the nomination. There were no more nominations.

Moved by – Member McIntyre

Seconded by – Mayor Bailey

That nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be closed.

**Carried**

Member Hodge was declared Chair and Member Guest was declared Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Member Hodge assumed the Chair.

### 3. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Member McIntyre  
Seconded by Member Guest

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda of January 17, 2022 be approved.

**Carried**

### 4. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests - None**

### 5. **Delegations / Petitions / Presentations**

#### 5.1 On Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU)

Mat Vaughan, Director of Development Planning presented a video demonstrating the On Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) policy. In response to questions, he outlined how farmers benefit from the streamlined process that was implemented within the last year and that will be transferred into the New Official Plan. It was noted that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will reclassify portions of properties, dependent upon usage. Pam Duesling, General Manager of Development Services noted assessment delays and the availability of a tax program with the County of Brant. She reviewed municipalities that have initiated similar policies and uptake within Brant was noted. Discussion was held with regards to the promotion of the policy and the potential to utilize other organizations, and the timing thereof.

### 6. **Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Moved by Councillor Miller  
Seconded by Member Guest

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes of January 20, 2020 and the Special Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes of February 7, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

### 8. **Staff Reports**

#### 8.1 RPT-22-29 Comments on the Rural and Agricultural Policies of the New Official Plan (A Simply Grand Plan, 2022)

P. Duesling reported that the draft New Official Plan (OP) was endorsed by Council and is under review by the Province. She noted the public consultation towards the plan, and challenges faced due to COVID-19. Staff were commended for their work and timely submission to the Province. It was noted that the New OP was a strategic priority of Council and that the Provincial Conformity date is July 1, 2022. Jennifer Boyer, Manager of Policy Planning expressed appreciation to the Committee for their comments towards the New OP. A presentation was made outlining the New Official Plan and highlighting the agricultural based policies.

In response to questions, it was noted that based on feedback, the draft New Official Plan proposes settlement area changes, to ensure development is needed, done in

an appropriate manner, and adheres to Provincial policy. It was noted that settlement boundaries for Burford remain unchanged, as it is being studied for servicing infrastructure and different Provincial policies apply. J. Boyer outlined opportunities within the Growth Plan to round out current settlement areas. She reported that positive feedback has been received towards hamlet / rural designations applied to assist with additional uses, such as Additional Residential Uses (ARU's) and mixed use businesses. Discussion was held with regards to historical changes and the need to establish a New Official Plan.

In response to questions, J. Boyer reviewed the process undertaken, feedback received / site specific / boundary expansion requests, and direction of Council to address the excess residential lands and a shortfall of employment lands of 109 hectares. She reported that additional land needs to the next Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) and beyond were reviewed, and that the shortfall and needs can be met with the expansion of two parcels in the 403 Rest Acres corridor. In response to questions, Ms. Boyer reviewed the schedule presented in the draft New Official Plan with regards to the Brantford Airport Master Plan, and site specific requests in the Cainsville area and Council direction in their regard. Council direction regarding one residential request in the Oakhill area was reviewed. It was noted that all requests have been considered, recommendations made, and Council direction has been received.

In response to questions, staff reported that there is a new proposed Parks and Open Space designation in the rural areas to redesignate Golf Courses. Examples were provided and input was sought to assist the municipality in defining appropriate resource-based tourism uses in the Rural Lands designation.

In response to questions, J. Boyer noted provincial requirements and calculations related to employment density. She noted the necessity to balance needs throughout the County and that consideration be given towards the types of businesses being attracted to the 403 corridor. In response to questions, M. Vaughan reported that employment density numbers are provided by companies upon application and noted that a number of large employers are drawn to the area.

In response to a question, M. Vaughan noted challenges in permitting the severance of more than an acre around a surplus farm dwelling, including the removal of agricultural land use and the creation of estate lots. B. Kortleve reported that guidance is provided by the Province towards land fragmentation. Options to pursue available lands as opposed to fragmenting farm lands is encouraged.

In response to questions, J. Boyer confirmed that once the New Official Plan is approved by the Province, the next one will be completed in 10 years as per the Planning Act. She noted that the draft New Official Plan is still in the draft stage, and that feedback / comments are welcomed prior to final submission to the Province sometime this spring.

Moved by – Member Tunstall  
Seconded by – Member McIntyre

That RPT-22-29 be received as information;

And that comments be referred to staff for their consideration in the preparation of the final draft of A Simply Grand Plan 2022.

**Carried**

**11. Other Business**

Electronic Participation

In response to questions, Members noted their familiarity and the pros and cons with regards to virtual meetings. Discussion was held with regards to the Wayfinding Signage and tourism in the County of Brant.

**13. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

Committee adjourned at 2:34 p.m. to meet again on March 7, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. via Electronic Participation.

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Secretary