



Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: February 13, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
7 Broadway Street West
Paris, ON

Present: Mayor Bailey, Councillors Kyle, and Coleman, Members Aulsebrook, Eddy, Hodge, L Miller (9:35 a.m.), R. Miller, Sharp, and Vos

Regrets: Member Snyder

Staff: Duesling, Boyer, Gable, Kitchen, Kortleve, Schaeffe, Porter and Davis

Member Hodge in the Chair.

1. Attendance

New members were welcomed, and introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mayor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Kyle

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda for February 13, 2023 be approved, with an addition under Other Business (Connestoga College).

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

None

4. Delegations / Petitions / Presentations

4.1 Nick Vahrmeyer - re: 524 Old Onondaga Road, B35-B43/22/DN

Nick Vahrmeyer, owner of 524 Onondaga Road, and Ruchika Angrish, The Angrish Group, sought Committee support for the proposed development of residential designated lands. It was noted that an update to the report in the agenda package will be presented by staff, which reflects comments received towards access to the farm. To mitigate concerns, the driveway access is proposed on Old Onondaga Road. In response to questions, R. Angrish reported that the severance is proposed on land zoned hamlet residential, and reported that one driveway off of Old Onondaga Road, with an easement as part of the consent application, is being proposed. Councillor Coleman expressed his pleasure that the applicant has moved

driveway access to Old Onondaga Road, noting that he would not support driveway access on Highway 54.

In response to questions, it was noted that the application is made on the current Official Plan, and presentations forthcoming on the agenda were noted.

Moved by Mayor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Kyle

That the presentation from Nick Vahrmeyer, regarding 524 Onondaga Road be received as information.

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings

5.1 Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes of December 19, 2022

Moved by Councillor Coleman
Seconded by Member Vos

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes of December 19, 2022, be approved.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

In response to questions, Chair Hodge confirmed that a letter regarding Bill 23 was sent to three members of Provincial Parliament and three Federal Members of Parliament.

7. Agricultural Planning Applications

7.1 524 Old Onondaga Road, B35-B43/22/DN

Dan Namisniak, Planner presented application for 524 Old Onondaga Rd, B35—B43/22/DN. He presented the original proposal, noted staff provided comments to the applicant, and he presented a revised proposal that is currently under review. He noted three changes incorporated in the revised proposal, including relocating the access to the retained farm parcel, containing the existing hedgerow on the agricultural portion, and retaining the existing hydro corridor in the agricultural parcel, result in the increased retained agricultural parcel to 5.3 hectares. Mr. Namisniak reviewed key points of how staff reviewed the proposal to ensure the protection of the agricultural parcel. He sought feedback from the Committee towards the location and size of the access to the retained parcel, and comments with regards to the hedgerow and hydro corridor. In response to questions, Mr. Namisniak reported that an application of severance has not gone forward to the Committee of Adjustments as of yet, but noted a zoning by-law amendment component for the application will be forthcoming to the Planning Development Committee. He further reported that access to the retained parcel will not be prevented, and it will remain under one ownership.

Moved by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Member Sharp

That staff presentation, 524 Old Onondaga Road, B35-B43/22/DN be received as information.

Carried

8. Staff Reports

8.1 RPT-0058-23, 2023 Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

Concerns were expressed with regards to the scheduling of meetings and obtaining a quorum during the busy farming seasons. It was noted that meetings may be cancelled or rescheduled, and virtual options may be explored.

Moved by Member Eddy
Seconded by Member R Miller

That the 2023 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting schedule be approved, as amended.

Carried

9. Communications

9.1 Ontario Hazelnut Symposium / AGM

It was noted that the Ontario Hazelnut Symposium /AGM is scheduled to be held March 2, 2023 at 9:00 – 3:00 at the Brant Sports Complex.

10. Other Business

Chair Hodge noted his involvement, and reviewed the history of the Connestoga College Equipment Operator Program, held at the Brantford Airport. He further reported that the College has put a pause on the program. In response to questions, he noted the decrease in enrollment due to the vaccination policy.

Mayor Bailey expressed the desire to meet with Mr. Hodge and Connestoga to discuss revival of the program.

Councillor Coleman left the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

11. Planning Advisory Committee Business

11.1 New Official Plan

11.1.1 RPT-0080-23, Draft New Official Plan - Project Status and Update - Policy Planning Division

Jessica Kitchen, Planner, made a presentation reviewing the history and outlined the project status of the New Official Plan for the County of Brant. Discussion was held with regards to the lack of comments received from the Province, legislative changes and impact / benefits of the delay, and January direction of Council to proceed. It was noted that fundamental assumptions remain unchanged, no new Site-Specific Reviews will be accepted through the formal process (deadline closed Fall 2021), and original feedback will stand, as work to finalize the Official Plan by Spring 2023 persists. Two dates have been reserved in May for a two-part Special Council Meeting to hear delegations and adopt the County's New Official Plan. Upon Council adoption the County's New Official Plan will be submitted to the Province for approval. In response to questions, Jennifer Boyer, Manager of Policy Planning, reported that the County of Brant is not on the list of municipalities in Bill 23, she noted that the County of Brant is meeting growth numbers and has an excess of residential lands.

Moved by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Member Eddy

That RPT-080-23, Draft New Official Plan - Project Status and Update, be received as information.

Carried

11.1.2 RPT-0076-23 Rural Settlements and Rural Policies - Policy Planning Division

Brandon Kortleve, Planner presented RPT-0076-23 and “The New Official Plan, Rural Settlements and Rural Policies”. In response to questions, Mr. Kortleve reviewed surplus farm dwelling severances, the prohibitions for residential construction in agricultural areas, and the limitations residential development can impose on the construction of agricultural buildings. In response to questions, Mr. Kortleve noted forthcoming reports to Committee regarding aggregate extraction policies and Minimum Distance Separation (MDS), noted that the County of Brant has a limited number of farmhouses designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, and reported that the typical lifespan of an Official Plan is ten years.

Moved by Member R Miller
Seconded by Member Aulsebrook

That report RPT-0076-23, Rural Settlement and Rural Policies, be received as information.

Carried

12. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Committee adjourned at 10:02 a.m. to meet again on March 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the County of Brant Council Chambers.

Secretary