



Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 24, 2023
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
7 Broadway Street West
Paris, ON

Present: Councillors Kyle, and Coleman, Members Aulsebrook, Eddy, Hodge, L. Miller, R. Miller, Sharp, Snyder, and Vos

Regrets: Mayor Bailey

Staff: Duesling, Boyer, Vaughan, Sousa, and Davis

Member Hodge in the Chair.

1. Attendance

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Coleman
Seconded by Member Sharp

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda for April 24, 2023, be approved.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests - None

4. Delegations / Petitions / Presentations - None

5. Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings

5.1 Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes of February 13, 2023

Clarification was requested to item 11.1.2, to note that the Committee suggested that the word manure be removed from the Rural Settlement and Rural Policy section.

Moved by Member Eddy
Seconded by Councillor Kyle

That the Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes of February 13, 2023, be approved, as amended.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes - None

7. Agricultural Planning Applications - None

- 8. **Staff Reports** - None
- 9. **Communications** - None
- 10. **Other Business** - None
- 11. **Planning Advisory Committee Business**

11.1 County of Brant New Official Plan - Project Status and Update

Jennifer Boyer, Manager of Policy Planning provided an update on the New Official Plan process. She noted presenting to the Committee in February, the year and half hold of the project, policy changes, and outlined the Official Plan as it currently stands. J Boyer reported on the availability of the Official Plan information on the Engage Brant website, including interactive mapping. She reviewed ongoing work to the draft, receipt of resubmissions, Open House engagement, and a forthcoming Virtual Town Hall. In response to questions, J Boyer reported on the process for an Official Plan amendment for boundary expansions.

11.2 Bill 97 and New Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

Pam Duesling, General Manager of Development Services and Emily Sousa, Planner, made a presentation “Bill 97 – Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act (2023) and Proposed New 2023 Provincial Planning Statement (PPS)”. They reviewed the history from Bill 108, Bill 109, and Bill 23, leading to where we are now with Bill 97 and the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS). Proposed changes and implementation plans were reviewed, with those changes pertaining to Agriculture. It was noted that Natural Heritage has not been included in the draft proposed PPS at this time. The next biggest change noted was the lot creation policies. Comparisons were made between the old and new agricultural lot creation policies, and confusion was expressed with regards to the interpretation towards the new policy. Staff reviewed implications for livestock agriculture in Brant, conflicting policies in terms of severances, and impact on farming in the County of Brant and succession planning. Discussion was held with regards to lot severances, the potential to assist with farmer debt, and the number of additional residential units permitted. In response to questions, staff reviewed the current policy limit of 450 sq metres for additional residential units, distance from principal residence, noted the increased uptake of additional residential units in the County of Brant and the need for strong local policies. In response to questions, J Boyer reported that factory farming is addressed in the new PPS. In response to questions, staff noted conflicting policies with regards to the severance of parcels on properties zoned A9. Staff will follow-up with regards to the number of land parcels in the County of Brant zoned A9.

Moved by Member Aulsebrook
Seconded by Councillor Kyle

Whereas the County of Brant Agricultural Advisory Committee is opposed to proposed Policy 4.3.3 – Lot Creation and Lot Adjustment within the new proposed 2023 Provincial Planning Statement;

And whereas creating any additional residential lots in the agricultural area, particularly prime agricultural areas (class 1-3 soils) has the potential to adversely affect farming in the County of Brant and overall food production and security for all of Ontario;

And whereas it is estimated that an approximate minimum 7,768 acres of prime agricultural lands will be taken out of production as a result of this proposed policy change in the County of Brant;

Therefore the County of Brant would like to see the Lot Creation and Lot Adjustments policies of the 2020 Provincial Policy Statement remain.

Carried

12. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m. to meet again on May 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the County of Brant Council Chambers.

Secretary