

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Agenda
Agricultural Development Advisory Committee Meeting

ADAC 2024-01

Thursday, February 15, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Economic Development Boardroom
Economic Development
180 Kent Street West, Lindsay, Ontario

Members:

Councillor Ron Ashmore
Robert Bonis
Lucas deVos
Will MacArthur
Guy Masters
Michelle Murphy-Ward
Rebecca Parker
Adam Shea
David Skrabek
Alice VanVught
Shawn Westland

Please contact Kelly Maloney, Economic Development Officer – Agriculture, at kmaloney@kawarthalakes.ca with any questions regarding this Meeting.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. The City of Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Please contact agendaitems@kawarthalakes.ca if you have an accessible accommodation request.

1.	Call to Order	
2.	Administrative Business	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda	
	That the agenda be adopted as circulated.	
2.2	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	
2.3	Adoption of Minutes	4 - 8
	That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting held on December 14, 2023, be adopted as circulated.	
2.4	Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 2024	
3.	Deputations/Presentations	
4.	Correspondence	
4.1	From Brian Bartley regarding Rural Zoning and Tree Preservation By-law Advocacy	9 - 10
5.	New or Other Business	
5.1	2023 Work Plan Review	
5.2	2024 Work Plan Development	
5.3	Tree Preservation By-Law Committee Comments	
5.4	The Emily Project	
6.	Update from Economic Development Division	
6.1	Kawartha Local Food Wholesale Project Verbal Update	
6.2	Spotlight on Agriculture Gala and Awards	
7.	News and Updates from Members	
8.	Next Meeting	

9. Adjourment

**The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes
Minutes
Agricultural Development Advisory Committee
Meeting**

**ADAC 2023-06
Thursday, December 14, 2023
9:00 A.M.
Economic Development Boardroom
Economic Development
180 Kent Street West, Lindsay, Ontario**

**Members:
Councillor Ron Ashmore
Robert Bonis
Lukas deVos
Will MacArthur
Guy Masters
Michelle Murphy Ward
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1. Call to Order

Chair R. Parker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Councillor Ashmore and Members R. Bonis, L. deVos, A. Shea, D. Skrabek, and S. Westland were in attendance.

Absent: W. MacArthur, G. Masters, M. Murphy-Ward, and A. Van Vught

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved By R. Bonis

Seconded By A. Shea

That the agenda be adopted as circulated.

Carried

2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

Moved By Councillor Ashmore

Seconded By A. Shea

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting held on October 27, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Deputations/Presentations

4. Correspondence

5. New or Other Business

5.1 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan Committee Input

Review the current Strategic Plan and provide 3 formal Committee Priorities for the next 4-year municipal strategic plan.

The Agricultural Development Advisory Committee reviewed the previous Strategic Plan and had a good discussion with the following items to put forward to Council for the new Strategic Plan. The Committee Members are keen to see a strong community future ahead.

ADAC submission for 2024-2027 Strategic Plan:

Within the Growing Economy Pillar:

1. Relating to the focus and wording of the first priority:
 1. Change the wording of the previous point #1 and keep it as the first priority to: “Support and encourage high-growth business” (Committee noted that previously two points referred to attraction, whereas one should be adjusted to focus on existing. They feel it is important to have the first priority on keeping and supporting the businesses that are here, with the main efforts on those with of scale impact.
 2. Add a new sub-point: “Support existing businesses to stay and survive and thrive” (Not just attract but support and sustain existing businesses.)
 3. “Protect and support agricultural land and businesses” (This is the same point as previous – keep it in the plan.)
2. Within an attraction-focused point priority #2:
 1. “Promote economic, social and environmental sustainable development” (Emphasis on economic and social and ensure it is written clearly to identify economic inclusion.)
 2. “Remove deterrents/barriers to new business re-location, business establishment, and business expansion”
 3. Side note – The previous second bullet in #2 is related to programs for existing businesses, not attraction, and should be moved to within #1.
3. Within the Healthy Environment Pillar:
 1. “Protect Agricultural Land” (Not just prime lands, but all lands suitable for agriculture.)

5.1.1 Design Standards to accommodate farm equipment

The Committee has previously identified concerns regarding challenges faced by road, bridge and other road infrastructure re-construction related to use by modern, larger farm equipment. The Economic Development Officer - Agriculture connected with Engineering Department Staff regarding the upcoming re-design of a key intersection in Bobcaygeon to request consideration for agricultural equipment. It was identified that a broader discussion regarding the possible development of specific standards to keep in mind generally for future infrastructure development/re-development projects related to agricultural equipment would be helpful. The committee was invited to identify a couple of

members to engage in a working group-type discussion with Engineering staff to bring forward related design standard recommendations from the agricultural sector, including consulting with other agricultural committees and organizations who might have similar recommendations. A. Shea and S. Westland volunteer to participate in this Working Group.

5.1.1.1 Tree Preservation By-laws - follow-up discussions

The Committee were updated on the progress of the public consultation regarding the Tree Preservation By-law noting that the JumpIn consultation will conclude on December 22, 2023. In attendance as an observer, Paul Buckley provided some concerns, questions and observations which he will be submitting to the public consultation. The committee informally discussed some early observations and is requesting further information on cost for staff and vehicles, as well as an alternative with cost analysis for a whip sapling planting program versus mature sapling program.

Moved By A. Shea

Seconded By R. Bonis

That further information be requested regarding anticipated costs for staff and vehicles for the proposed program, as well as for an alternate whip sapling planting program, as opposed to a mature sapling planting program.

Carried

6. Update from Economic Development Division

6.1 Kawartha Region Local Food Wholesale Project - update

There has been very good response for the program intake with over 30 producers and approximately a dozen buyers having submitted an expression of interest to participate. Recruitment continues, in particular for additional food buyers. Discovery discussions and training development are underway, with workshops planned for February and March.

6.2 Heritage Farm Property, Genealogy and House Research Workshops - verbal report

Both workshops were well attended. Recordings of the presentations, and handouts with links to resources will be sent to all registered, as well as posted to the Heritage page on the City website.

6.3 2024 Spotlight on Agriculture Gala and Awards

Plans are underway for an event in early April. Tickets are expected to be on sale in early January. Nominations for awards will be due at the end of January.

7. News and Updates from Members

- It is anticipated that 2024 will see another increase in soybean acres in the area from contract growers.
- Victoria Beef Farmers did a mailer which worked very well for their November 28 meeting. Although it is very costly, it is their only way to communicate with their membership. Sheep has same challenge, and is using only Facebook. The Beef Farmers have also used the Federation email list, recognizing that it still does not connect with all members.
- Sales of agricultural equipment is still puttering along. Consumer products category is completely non-existent under 40hp. There seems to be no disposable income for households to purchase these items currently. Electric Zero Turn mowers will be in showrooms within 2024.
- Potash is moving somewhat out to farms currently but most other fertilizer done for the year.
- 2 Town Halls were held by Councillor Ashmore with about 1500 total attending including a few hundred in-person and online. He used radio advertising, which seemed to be effective to reach people. He also attended a tour at Kawartha Dairy; participated in the Santa Clause Parade for the IPM 2024 committee.
- Canine distemper in raccoons is a significant issue now in the area. It is perpetuated by animals feeding on the carcasses of infected animals.
- The local Federation of Agriculture is doing an Agricultural Impact Study in partnership with the Peterborough Federation of Agriculture.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Economic Development Boardroom.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 11:31 a.m.

Hi Kelly,

I understand you are the Economic Development Officer - Agriculture and take questions regarding the Agricultural development Advisory Committee. My wife and I operate a farm in the north part of the municipality producing maple syrup and beef cattle along with a little firewood and every decade or so some timber. Our sales are consistently in excess of \$100,000 per year so this is not a hobby operation. We have significant concerns regarding both the Rural Zoning by-law proposal and the Tree Preservation By-law proposal as they have the potential to have significant negative impact on our and other operations in our area.

With regard to the Rural Zoning By-law I wrote to Jonathan Derworiz both on behalf of our operation and also on behalf of the Haliburton Kawartha Maple Syrup Producers Local of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association regarding several concerns with the proposal that had potential negative impacts in March of 2022. Other than the email saying that he would respond I have heard nothing back and the latest draft appears to not address the concerns raised. If the proposed Rural Zoning By-law complied with the the Official plan which clearly has different permitted uses for Section 15 Prime Agricultural Designation (Class 1,2 and 3 soils) and Section 16 Rural Designation (Class 4,5,6 and 7 Soils) many of my concerns would be addressed, but the "final draft" appears to ignore the the Official Plan and applies the more restrictive Prime Agricultural uses to all Agricultural land. The most frustrating part of this process is having input totally ignored and finding out we have a "final draft". I can provide more details or copies of my correspondence in this matter if you wish.

I have also concerns regarding the proposed Tree Preservation by-Law, but I am happy to say that I have a good dialogue going on in this matter. Following is a summary of my main concerns:

With regard to proposed restrictions on cutting trees in EP areas I would point out that the main objective of EP areas as defined in the City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan -2012 is to protect people from the environment not the other way around. I have copied the objective statement from the Official Plan following:

Prevent development or site alteration on lands which are hazardous due to flooding, poor drainage, deep organic soils, erosion, steep slopes, or any other physical condition which could cause loss of life, personal injury, property damage or degradation of the environment.

Further the Official Plan specifically permits the following activities in EP areas:

- a) Agricultural, excluding buildings or structures*
- b) Buildings or structures for erosion or flood control*
- c) Conservation, excluding buildings or structures*
- d) Forestry, excluding buildings or structures*
- e) Nursery and market gardening, excluding buildings or structures*
- f) Recreation or park purposes, excluding buildings or structures*
- g) Wildlife management areas, excluding buildings or structures*

But, statement 2.01 c) of the proposed Tree Protection By-law states:

In addition to and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this By-law also applies to tree cutting within any land in private ownership that is in an area designated by the City of Kawartha Lakes Official plan 2012 as being used for "environmental protection", whether within the context of a development application or not.

As well as 3.03 (k) allows an Environmental Officer to refuse an approval on land designated for Environmental Protection including but not limited to lands within a woodlot.

The prohibitions on cutting healthy trees in EP areas would appear to me to be in contradiction to the Official Plan.

Further item 2.02 (k) which mentions forestry as a non-application item of the By-law item is irrelevant since this non-application clause is qualified by stating "under a license issued under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994". This Act is only applicable to provincially owned Crown Land and not to private land, the By-law does not apply to Crown land, so in its present form the statement has no possible application.

I would suggest that clauses 2.01 c) and 3.03 (k) should be removed from the proposed By-law as they are in contradiction to the Official Plan and that 2.02 (k) should be amended to simply read "forestry activities".

This is not the totality of my concerns with the Tree Preservation By-law, but it is start.

Appreciate your and the Committees consideration of these matters.

Regards,
Brian Bartley