



Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Haldimand County Administration Building

September 18, 2019

Present: Councilor Metcalfe, Henk Lise (Chair), Stuart Heeg (Vice-Chair), Ron Young, Richard Blyleven, Stephanie Campbell-Heron, Nick Kinkel(OMAFRA)

Staff: Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Alison Earls Senior Economic Development Officer & Breanna Beauchamp, Division Support.

Regrets: Bruce Armstrong, Rick Armstrong, Jordan Fowler

1. Welcome and Introduction

Meeting called to order by Chair H.Lise at 6:02 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Council Update

Councilor Metcalfe introduced himself and provided an update on Council activities including road maintenance, the rural broadband RFP release, the Caledonia bridge reconstruction, and natural gas capacity exploration.

3. Upcoming Fall Workshops

Louise from GRCA highlighted the following upcoming workshops:

- Workshop: Managing Trees in Haldimand County
- OMAFRA Soil Sampling and Fertility Workshops

4. OMAFRA Update- Business Inventory

N. Kinkel and A. Earls presented updates on the agriculture business inventory to the committee. They requested additional feedback from the group.

5. Farmer Profile Presentation

Chair H.Lise began conference call with guest speaker Cory Van Groningen. Cory's presentation was on the Chicken Farmers of Ontario: Artisanal Chicken Program. This program allows for farmers to raise 3000 birds per farm deed without requiring to purchase quota from Chicken Farmers of Ontario. Key highlights include:

- Economic Impact –this program allows local farmers to diversify their farm operation and raise an artisanal style of chicken (i.e. free range, organic etc.)

- Creation of job opportunities for full time, year round employment in agriculture. With the implementation of this program, Cory now employs over 70 laborers locally.
- Financial Impact- Regulations in this program allow farmers to charge more for their product therefore profit margins are larger. Secondly, it provides a double use for pastures (e.g. beef and chicken), increasing the agricultural operation's overall revenue.

A discussion then ensued on this topic.

6. Update on Issues Raised

L. Romanuk provided updates on the issues the committee raised at previous meetings including the :

- Site-Alteration By-Law;
- Heavy Truck Load By-Law;
- Animal activists on farms; and
- The Emily Project.

Copies of the Site Alteration By Law, and the Half Load Restriction By Law were distributed. A discussion then ensued on this topic.

7. Niche Market Opportunities

Chair H. Lise concluded these opportunities were discussed during the farmer profile presentation. Call for suggestions was put forward to the committee.

8. Approval of Minutes and Business Arising

Moved by R. Blyleven and seconded by R. Young that the Minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated July 17, 2019 be approved as presented.

9. EDT Staff Update

L. Romanuk provided a brief overview of all recent staff changes.

A. Earls provided an update on upcoming opportunities including Small Business Week: Biz Breakfast event, Discover New Markets Tourism Workshop, Rural Ontario Job Fair, and Skilled Trade Lunchtime engagement program.

10. New Business

Caledonia Fair is September 26 to 28th, and Agricultural Extravaganza takes place on September 19th.

11. Adjourned at 7:59 pm

12. Next Meeting

Wednesday November 20th, 2019 from 6pm to 8pm
Haldimand County Administration Building 45 Munsee Street North