Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date:	November 12, 2020
Time:	7:00 pm
Location:	Virtual

1. Members Present:

Glenn Portch (Chair), Vanessa Warren, Jamie Fisher, Maura Romanelli, Norm Richardson, John Timmis and Sarah Pralet

2. Regrets:

None

3. Others Present:

Councillor Angelo Bentivegna, Kelly Cook (Planner), Steve Robinson (Manager of Urban Forestry), Melissa Torchia (Supervisor of Forest Protection) and Jo-Anne Rudy (Clerk)

4. Declarations of Interest:

None

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1 Approve minutes from meeting held September 9, 2020

On motion, the minutes from meeting held September 9, 2020 were approved as presented.

6. Delegation(s):

6.1 Burlington Private Tree By-law - rural area consultation

- Steve Robinson, Manager of Urban Forestry, and Melissa Torchia, Supervisor of Forest Protection, facilitated a conversation with committee members regarding the Private Tree By-law, specifically as it relates to rural/agricultural lands. Steve stated the importance of consulting with BARAAC as rural lands are very different to the urban

area. Staff will be preparing a report in January providing an update to Council on the first year of the By-law being in effect. Melissa advised that there is a lot of legislation coming down from the Province and added that City staff would much rather be proactive, rather than reactive.

- Members agreed that they don't see the need for a tree by-law in the rural area when they have other legislation and regulations overseeing their properties. Suggestion was made to look at incentives rather than regulations. Members asked for available data for the tree canopy in the rural area that would indicate the need for a tree by-law. If the canopy is declining, perhaps it's because of regulations. Suggestion was made to do a survey with all rural landowners and perhaps commission a study that shows if by-law was implemented versus no by-law with 10, 20, 40 year implications and a cost benefit analysis. The importance of including the Region in this discussion was also shared.

7. Regular Items:

7.1 Regional Official Plan Review

a. Update on Policy Subcommittee October 13, 2020 meeting with Halton Region

- Jamie and Vanessa provided a brief update on their October 13 meeting with Halton Region and noted that it went well. Jamie noted that it will be an uphill battle but stated the importance of meeting with them. The Region has indicated that they will coordinate a follow-up meeting to continue the discussion.

b. Special meeting of Halton Region Council on November 18, 2020

- Jamie noted the importance of keeping Regional Council engaged with their concerns and added that November 18 will be another opportunity to do this.

- Councillor Bentivegna stated the importance of Council members knowing what BARAAC is looking for so they can make the appropriate decisions. **Motion** - Support Vanessa Warren and Jamie Fisher delegating at the November 18, 2020 Regional Council on behalf of BARAAC. **CARRIED**

c. Draft Notice from Halton Region on the New Burlington Official Plan

- Kelly advised that the Draft Notice of Decision from the Region for the New Official Plan will be made public on November 18. The Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Committee meeting is on November 26 and Council will decide whether to endorse the Region's decision. **Motion** - Support Vanessa Warren and/or Jamie Fisher to delegate at the November 26, 2020 Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Committee meeting on behalf of BARAAC. **CARRIED**

7.2 2021 ROMA Conference

- Kelly provided some information on the 2021 ROMA Conference being held in January and advised that she will be attending. Councillor Bentivegna also indicated that he plans to attend.

7.3 Recruitment for Advisory Committees

- Jo-Anne advised that recruitment has begun for Advisory Committees and noted that applications will be accepted until November 27. Currently BARAAC has 6 vacancies - 3 full voting and 1-3 alternate positions. A virtual Information session will be held on November 17 at 7 p.m. Members were asked to share this information with their various networks.

8. Other Business:

- Glenn suggested that in order to better manage future agendas, that an approximate time limit for each item be included on the agenda.

9. Adjournment: 9:19 p.m.