

Whereas, Provincial Plans have clarified through language and mapping that the Agricultural Land Base should be the designation and Natural Heritage System the overlay, and

Whereas Council is legally obligated by the Planning Act to conform to and not conflict with Provincial Plans, and

Whereas certainty in Agricultural policy and planning is the single best way to protect and promote farming, thereby protecting Burlington's agricultural land mass,

Therefore:

1. Direct City Staff to ensure that the adopted Official Plan ensures Agriculture is the Designation and Natural Heritage System is the Overlay that informs only non-agricultural development (as defined by the planning act).
2. Further, where local policy creates constraints that compromise farm viability, the City of Burlington's Official Plan should default to Provincial Policy, including, but not limited to, the following examples:
  - 9.1.2 h)(ii) - a policy that limits agricultural-related uses or on-farm diversified uses in secondary dwelling units
  - 9.1.2 o) - a policy that restricts special events in the rural community
  - 9.2.3 a)(v) - a policy that limits the use of on farm accessory dwelling units to full time farm help only

9.2.3 a)(xvii) - a policy that limits on farm sales and creates bylaw and enforcement red tape

9.5.6 c) - an unclear statement that could limit appropriate agricultural uses within and within 120 meters of NHS

Whereas, City of Burlington Planning Staff will be engaging with Regional Planning Staff throughout Halton's Official Plan review (ROPA39),

Whereas communication and informed policy decisions at the earliest stages of Halton's OP development will be critical in redressing the anti-agricultural policies of ROPA 38

Therefore, Council endorses the following list of Staff Directions to act as guiding principles surrounding Agriculture and Rural Planning:

1. Policies should not duplicate (in intent or language) NEP or CA regulations, but achieve conformity by simply calling for permits from NEC and/or CA as required.
2. Permitted uses should be as broad as possible (normal rural uses) and where a use is curtailed, as justification should be made (publicly) outlining the problem that needs to be solved and how restricting the use will solve the problem.
3. NHS stewardship should be encouraged and not penalized as current policy does (i.e. if a landowner voluntary plants trees or buffers a

watercourse under current policy, they are creating limitations on their own future land use, therefore good behaviour and stewardship is discouraged by policy).

4. The focus on protection of privately owned public assets should focus on Conservation (the wise and sustainable use of resources) rather than environmental (no human impact) goals.
5. Notice to landowners of proposed changes should be robust and direct (i.e. direct mail) - local print media is often not available to rural residents and should not be relied upon to convey critical and property specific changes.
6. Where local policy creates constraints that compromise farm viability, any impediments to current or normal agricultural uses should be ground-truthed.
7. Horticultural Trade policies should be reviewed through the lens of constraints to Horticulture as a normal farm practice