



Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: June 15, 2022
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Virtual

1. Members Present:

Maura Romanelli (Chair), Norm Richardson, Krista Harrington (left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.), Sarah Pralet, Larry Campbell, Vincent Sowa

2. Regrets:

Glenn Portch, Vanessa Warren, Jamie Fisher, Michiel Barnard

3. Others Present:

Councillor Bentivegna, Kyle McLoughlin (Supervisor of Forest Planning and Health), Kelly Cook (Planner), Kristin Sprukulis (Clerk)

4. Land Acknowledgement:

The Chair read the land acknowledgement.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None.

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.1 Approve minutes from meeting held May 18, 2022

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held May 18, 2022, were approved as presented.

7. Delegation(s):

7.1 Urban Forest Master Plan and Spongy Moth (Kyle McLoughlin, Supervisor of Forest Planning and Health, Roads, Parks & Forestry Department) (45 mins)

Kyle McLoughlin, Supervisor of Forest Planning and Health, from the City of Burlington Roads, Parks and Forestry department shared a presentation regarding the Urban Forest Master Plan and Spongy Moth with the committee. Kyle shared the following information:

- An urban forest encompasses all trees, plants, soils, etc. within the city. It goes from the shoreline right to the edge of the city with the escarpment.
- Urban Forestry is looking at trees as infrastructure as they help with flooding prevention, keeping the city cool, air pollution being removed and providing habitat. This requires good planning, because you cannot build big trees.
- The Urban Forestry Master Plan is being updated now because Emerald Ash Borer had changed the game and was devastating. Because of this, urban forestry is looked at with a new lens. The Asset Management and Official Plan are also recognizing the importance of trees within their plans. At the time the Asset Management Plan has the tree inventory in Burlington valued at \$300 million.
- For the Urban Forest Master Plan the city is at step 3/5 which is the stakeholder consultation, which includes this presentation to advisory committees.
- This Urban Forestry Master Plan is also available on Get Involved Burlington. This can be found [here](#), and it includes surveys and pin maps.
- Canopy Cover- this is how much of an area is occupied by tree cover from above. Most of the canopy in Burlington is in the rural area. 36% in rural areas, and 22% in urban areas.
- Impervious areas are locations where water cannot get into the ground. When permeable spaces are lost, water needs to find a space to go and this either means developing costly storm water infrastructure or accepting flooding. It is also very difficult to plant trees in impervious areas. Ex. Along the QEW trees struggle to grow because the area is all concrete.
- In Burlington there are over 71,000 public trees, 90% of which are in fair or good condition. There are also 150 tree species, but 60% of this includes only 10 common species. This is a problem because if something happens to a common tree (ex. ash tree), it is very expensive and difficult to deal with these trees suddenly being gone or

in danger due to unknown threats or pests. Looking for residents to also choose to plant different species on private property.

- Another plan is the Woodland Management Strategy which will provide inventory and direction for management. Forestry is looking to see what is in each woodland so it is known and so that they can have a strategy for how to take care of these forested areas.
- Spongy moth- this used to be called gypsy moth. In the past there has been an aerial spray, however this year there was not a spray as it was not needed. There is an Integrated Pest Management plan that looks at the different parts of pests in their life cycle and how to deal with these, as each stage has a different mitigation plan ex. sticky or burlap bands, spray, vacuuming egg masses.

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Planner update

- a. Regional Official Plan Review Draft Policy Directions update from June 15 Regional Council meeting

Kelly provided an update regarding the Regional Official Plan Review Draft Policy Directions:

- Jamie delegated at the Halton Regional Council meeting on June 15.
- The motion that was passed was:
 - THAT Report No. LPS44-22 be amended to remove Policy Directions RAS-1 and NH-6 to allow for further public consultation, to be reported back to Regional Council in the second quarter of 2023. THAT the remainder of the directions to staff in Report No. LPS44-22 be approved as presented.
- There will be additional discussions on this as the Region will need some time to undertake the work.
- The message has been heard that more time is needed to carefully think this through. Jamie said we don't know what the best planning policy option is as we need to think all the way down the line (ie. through to implementation) about these before deciding what the best policy framework is.

- Councillor Bentivegna also spoke about the Regional meeting. He applauded the delegation by Jamie and advised that both Mayors were asking detailed questions regarding this direction.
- The meeting agenda and video recording can be found [here](#).

8.2 Research on rural dumping bylaws in other municipalities

Krista had to leave the meeting and was unable to provide findings at this time. Councillor Bentivegna provided an update to the committee regarding the changes to the lot maintenance by-law at the Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility committee meeting on June 7. The item was discussed [here](#). He informed that it is difficult to enforce the dumping by-law, but the City has added a dumping by-law into the lot maintenance by-law; this now allows the City to take residents to court for lot maintenance issues. Staff has realized that the dumping is an issue and are still looking for a bigger solution to this problem. The final vote on this lot maintenance by-law will be on June 21 at the Council meeting.

9. Other Business:

None.

10. Adjournment:

Quorum was lost at 8:00 p.m.. The meeting ended at 8:12 p.m. as there were no further items for discussion.