



## **Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes**

Date: October 16, 2024  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Hybrid meeting- Virtual and Room 247 City Hall

**1. Members Present:**

Vincent Sowa (Chair), Glenn Portch, Maura Romanelli, Erin Fleming, Larry Campbell, Michiel Barnard, Mariam Abu-El-Magd, Chuck Nyland and Peter Starcevic

**2. Regrets:**

Councillor Kelvin Galbraith and Sarah Pralet

**3. Others Present:**

Kelly Cook (Planner) and Jo-Anne Rudy (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 September 18, 2024

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held September 18, 2024, were approved as presented.

**7. Delegation(s):**

None

**8. Regular Items:**

8.1 Planner update

- a. Sept 26 Burlington Rural Forum Debrief
  - Kelly advised that this event was well attended and noted that there was significant discussion on traffic safety issues and the Tennis Club. There was no discussion regarding the Nelson Quarry expansion, unlike the 2023 event. She added that a lot of the discussion at the Community Planning / BARAAC table was related to North Aldershot.
- b. Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health
  - Kelly advised that the [link](#) for the above was shared for the committee's information.
- c. Aiming Higher: Soils impact people
  - Kelly advised that the [link](#) for the above was shared for the committee's information.
- d. ALUS Peel Pilot
  - Kelly advised that the [link](#) for the above was shared for the committee's information and added that she spoke with the folks working on this and they noted that they would be interested in starting a regional (i.e. inter-municipal) program in the GTHA.

## 8.2 Agricultural Action Plan (AAP)

- Kelly briefly reviewed service changes at the Region for the benefit of members who weren't in attendance at the last meeting and noted that the AAP needs to be scoped down.
- Members asked what is happening with the farming and agriculture matters that were being worked on at the Region and expressed concern about there not being a rural focus at the level of local economic development. **Action** - Vincent to draft an email to the Mayor, rural councillors and CAO expressing BARAAC's concerns and will send to members to review.
- Kelly reviewed the actions from the Region's Rural Agricultural Strategy that the committee had previously selected as focus areas for the City's AAP work and highlighted what is likely doable with current resources. She noted that the planning framework needs to be sorted based on Provincial legislative requirements and that that

falls within her current role. However, resources need to be in place for actions which go beyond land use planning policy and relate more to economic development and other strategic work.

- Kelly will clean up the discussion document and email to Committee members by next week.

**9. Other Business:**

- Kelly advised that she attended the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA) farm tour in Milton on October 4th and noted that there are many similar concerns across municipalities regarding official plan policies that affect agriculture. She suggested working with Halton Hills and Milton to aim for consistency, where possible.
- Maura advised that the HRFA board of directors is very interested to have a representative sit on BARAAC and noted that ongoing communication is important between Burlington agriculture operators and the city. It was suggested that perhaps Maura could be the representative since she is on both committees and she could provide updates at BARAAC's monthly meetings. It was also suggested that she advise other agricultural operators in Burlington to apply for the committee when recruitment begins.
- Jo-Anne advised that recruitment for all advisory committees will begin on October 28 with a deadline of November 11. Interviews will take place in late November and a report to Council appointing new members is expected in December.

**10. Adjournment:**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.