



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

### **Minutes**

Date: May 21, 2025  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

**1. Members Present:**

Vincent Sowa (Chair), Maura Romanelli, Erin Fleming, Larry Campbell, Michiel Barnard and Mariam Abu-El-Magd

**2. Regrets:**

Wilma Jacobs, Norm Richardson and Peter Starcevic

**3. Others Present:**

Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Anita Cassidy (Executive Director, Burlington Economic Development & Tourism), Claire Green (Director - Destination Development & Marketing, Burlington Economic Development & Tourism), Sandra Kay (Manager, Tourism Services, Burlington Economic Development & Tourism), Natasha Piroutz (Manager, Destination Development, Burlington Economic Development & Tourism), 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 April 16, 2025

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held April 16, 2025, were approved as presented.

**7. Delegation(s):**

None

## **8. Regular Items:**

### **8.1 Discussion with Burlington Economic Development and Tourism staff**

- Anita Cassidy, Executive Director, and Claire Green, Director - Destination Development & Marketing, Burlington Economic Development & Tourism provided a presentation to committee regarding Burlington Economic Development & Tourism that highlighted their merger into a single organization; their 2025 objectives; strategic marketing priorities; destination stewardship plans and objectives; strategic framework and priorities and tourism resources.
- Committee members stated the importance of having the same asset in the north as the waterfront is in the downtown. Also, the land use planning issues need to be resolved - can't develop Agri-tourism if assets can't be developed.
- Members also asked how small businesses get a voice and assisted to be known. It was suggested that perhaps there could be some business connectivity and peer to peer opportunities.
- It was also suggested that the committee's composition be updated to include a representative from Burlington Economic Development and Tourism.

### **8.2 Agricultural Action Plan update**

- Kelly stated that it was beneficial to have EcDev staff attend the meeting to see where they can assist with the AAP to better understand the needs of the rural and agricultural community from an economic development perspective and to identify possible synergies. Staff are preparing a report that will go to the July 7 Committee of the Whole meeting recommending approval of the Agricultural Action Plan, which will essentially be the committee's final version of the scoped actions originally submitted to Council as part of BARAAC's March delegation.
- Kelly noted the importance of prioritizing the actions so will determine a survey of some kind that she will send to members to complete and return to her by May 28. The committee can discuss how they want to present the final set of actions at the June meeting.

### 8.3 Planner update

Kelly advised that all of the following items were provided to committee for their information and noted that there is the opportunity to comment if desired. Members can reach out to Kelly if they wish to comment.

- a. Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025
- b. Proposed interim changes to the Endangered Species Act, 2007 and a proposal for the Species Conservation Act, 2025
- c. Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025
- d. Halton Region Integrated Master Plan (Infrastructure)

### 8.4 Commercial kitchen space for value-added processing

- Erin shared that she reached out to Halton Region public health regarding selling prepared foods from ingredients on her farm - jams and granola. Unfortunately due to her open concept home and pets, she is excluded from the "home based kitchen route". She is exploring alternative options and asked if there were any loopholes for farms that she should be aware of like producing under a certain amount that would put her in a different category. She also asked if anyone knew of any kitchen space that could be rented out.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to Jamie Fisher as he may have some contacts as well as contacting Country Heritage Park as they rent out their kitchen.

### 8.5 BARAAC's participation in Heritage Week

- Committee did not have any suggestions for event ideas for Heritage Week. **Action** - Jo-Anne to follow up with Wilma regarding borrowing the quiz board that was used at a Ward 6 event that highlights some rural and agricultural history.

## 9. Other Business:

- Maura asked about the timeline for the Official Plan and Kelly responded that there isn't one and that staff are currently in the process of commenting on legislative changes that affect the Official Plan. Kelly will provide updates as they become available.
- Jo-Anne advised that the City will once again be hosting the Food for Feedback event on September 13, 2025 from 12 to 4 p.m. and asked the

committee to consider whether they would like to participate again this year. This will be discussed at the June meeting.

**10. Adjournment:**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.