



**Northumberland County  
Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting  
Minutes  
January 24, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

B. Buttar, A. Carruthers, M. Dejong, D. Gray, Councillor S. Jibb, Warden M. Martin, L. Meekes, M. Opsteen

**Staff Present:**

G. Dees, T. Farrell, D. Marshall, T. Mellor, J. Moore, M. Stergios

**1) Welcome**

- Chair Allan Carruthers called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed Todd Farrell, Natural Heritage Manager.

**2) Approval of the January 24, 2023 Agenda / Additional Items**

- Agenda accepted as presented.

**3) Approval of the September 27, 2022 Minutes**

- Minutes approved as presented.

**4) Action Items and Follow Up from Previous Meeting**

**a) Municipal Drainage**

**ACTION:** Drafting of the Tile Drainage policy pushed into 2023, Denise will circulate to the group for review in the coming months.

**5) Communications**

- N/A

**6) New/Other Business**

**a) Invasive Species Update**

- Todd provided information on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid species.
- The HWA is a destructive pest of eastern hemlock, an ecologically significant tree species in eastern Canada.
- Signs of infestation include:
  - Cottony, white egg sacs.

- Swelling at twig tips, twig dieback, grey foliage.
  - Report suspected HWA or HWA damage.
  - Allan asked what the treatment timeframe is, with Todd indicating he will share more information when he receives it.
- b) Mental Health Awareness Program Update
- Allan highlighted the well received and accepted mental health first aid course from 2019.
  - As a result, Province moved forward with the Farmers Wellness Program.
  - More information can be found at [farmerwellness.ca](http://farmerwellness.ca)
- c) Budget Update / Highlights
- Glenn provided an update on the 2023 Northumberland County budget process.
  - This year saw a longer than typical budget process, as a preliminary draft budget was requested by the outgoing Council.
  - A budget overview session with Council took place in December.
  - Last week, a full day of budget deliberation with Council took place.
  - Highlights include a 5.9% County increase and 4.8% base levy increase, with 5% being the previous Council's target.
- d) Loyalist College
- Jennifer provided an update on Loyalist College's plan to open a campus in Port Hope.
  - The campus will be a renovation of the old St. Mary's school.
  - A presentation will be taking place at the Northumberland County Economic Development, Tourism and Land use Planning Committee meeting next week.
  - **ACTION**: Jennifer will connect the Loyalist delegation with Allan.
- e) ROMA Delegation (POA and Traffic Enforcement)
- Jennifer informed the group of the County's delegation requests for ROMA:
    - 'Declining Enforcement Charges and Public Safety on Northumberland County Roadways' – Solicitor General Kerzner
    - 'Case Mix Index (CMI) and Long-Term Care Home Capital Funding' – Minister Calandra
    - '123 Hope St. Acquisition' – Associate Minister Parsa

**7) Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Updates to the Northumberland County Agriculture website
- Update on Internet infrastructure in Northumberland County

**8) Next Meeting**

- Tuesday April 25, 2023  
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
Location: Zoom