



**Northumberland County  
Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting  
Minutes**

**February 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.  
Zoom Conference Technology**

**Present:** Chair M. Opsteen, Deputy Warden M. Martin, B. Buttar, M. Ellis, J. Moore, G. Dees, D. Marshall, K. Stubbings, T. Mellor, L. Meekes, P. Burnham, A. Carruthers

**Guests:** T. Crowe, M. Muldoon

**Regrets:** A. Cole, D. Gray, P. Linton, M. Dejong

**1. Welcome**

- The Agriculture Advisory Group welcomed Mike Muldoon, Acting Natural and Cultural Heritage Manager to the meeting.

**2. Approval of February 23, 2021 Agenda / Additional Items**

- Agenda accepted as presented.

**3. Approval of the December 1, 2020 Minutes**

- Minutes accepted as presented.

**4. Action Items and Follow Up from Previous Meetings**

- a) Action: Maddison Ellis will circulate Trevor Crowe's contact information and OMAFRA resources to the Agriculture Advisory Group.
  - Information was shared.
- b) Action: Denise Marshall was not aware of any Municipal drains in the County, however, she committed to finding any information and history of a potential drain at this location.

- Denise Marshall indicated that there is a municipal drain in the hamlet of Welcome that is under the maintenance of the Municipality of Port Hope.

## **5. Correspondence**

- a) Letter from Minister Hardeman re: Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program
  - Letter was shared with the Agriculture Advisory Group for information purposes.

## **6. New/Other Business**

### **a) Ministry Update**

- Trevor Crowe highlighted upcoming events including a Community Economic Development workshop and a North & Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference.

### **b) Ashtree Removal Policies**

- Please see attached presentation.
- Mike Muldoon shared information on the County's Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan.
- Denise Marshall provided information from a Roads Operations perspective.
  - The County has issued a Request for Proposal to hire a contractor for the removal of ash trees.

### **c) Vegetation Management Committee**

- Denise Marshall provided an update on the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Vegetation Management Committee and highlighted that County staff continue to investigate/research options.

### **d) Traffic Calming**

- Denise Marshall indicated that the Inter-Municipal Public Works Committee (IMPWC) is working collaboratively to address speeding in Northumberland County.
- The Municipality of Trent Hills and the Town of Cobourg have recently developed Committees to address speeding.
- Denise Marshall also indicated that the IMPWC plans to invite a member of the OPP Traffic Unit to the next meeting to discuss speeding in the County and opportunities for further collaboration (currently using the Black Cat to collect and share speed data).

- The IMPWC will also discuss developing a collaborative education/communications campaign to educate the public on speeding and road safety.
- Finally, Denise Marshall highlighted that the IMPWC will continue to monitor the progress of photo radar in neighbouring jurisdictions and investigate requirements to implement in Northumberland County.

#### **e) COVID-19 Response & Vaccinations**

- Ken Stubbings provided an update on County operations.
- Jennifer Moore discussed the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, highlighting that vaccines are currently underway for priority populations in Northumberland County.
- The Agriculture Advisory Group inquired if the Health Unit has given any consideration to farm workers in the prioritization of essential workers.
- **Action:** Jennifer Moore committed to following up with the Health Unit on this question.
- Jennifer Moore explained that the Ontario Health Team of Northumberland (OHT-N) is hosting a COVID-19 virtual form on February 25<sup>th</sup> to answer the public's vaccine-related questions.
- Deputy Warden Mandy Martin also indicated that the Health Unit is hosting a 'Talk with the Doc' Virtual Town Hall on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Action:** Maddison Ellis will share additional information regarding the upcoming virtual COVID-19 information sessions with the Agriculture Advisory Group.

#### **f) GPL/NCAM Redevelopment Update**

- Jennifer Moore provided an update on the Golden Plough Lodge (GPL) and Northumberland County Archives & Museum (NCAM) redevelopment project.
- Construction has commenced and project is progressing well.

#### **g) ROMA Conference Delegation re: Land Use Planning**

- Jennifer Moore explained that the County had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs as part of the 2021 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference that took place from January 24 to 26, 2021.
- Members of County Council requested a delegation in order to discuss lot creation on agricultural lands.
- Some landowners in the County have approached local Councils indicating that although their land is intended to be used for agricultural purposes – the property is not suitable for agriculture.
- Lot size, topography, soil conditions or existing development are some of the barriers to agricultural uses on some lots.
- In some cases, lands that have historically been designated as “agricultural” have never had crop production or livestock operations.

- These landowners would prefer to use portions of their land to create residential lots but are unable to under the current provincial policy framework which limits lot creation to surplus farm dwellings.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

- Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. (Zoom Video Conference)