

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Minutes

Agricultural Development Advisory Committee

Meeting

ADAC2019-06
Thursday, December 12, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Economic Development Boardroom
Economic Development
180 Kent Street West, Lindsay, Ontario

Members:
Councillor Andrew Veale
Paul Brown
Phil Callaghan
Michelle Murphy-Ward
Rebecca Parker
Matthew Pecoskie
Adam Shea
Tim Webster
Shawn Westland

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1. Call to Order

Chair R. Parker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Councillor A. Veale and Members R. Parker, P. Brown, P. Callaghan, M. Murphy-Ward, M. Pecoskie, A. Shea, T. Webster and S. Westland were in attendance. Regrets: R. Bonis

2. Administrative Business

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

Moved By P. Callaghan

Seconded By Councillor Veale

That the agenda be adopted with addition of a presentation by Ben Lafort, Ontario Federation of Agriculture as item 3.2, moving 3.2 to 5.1, and an Update on the Line Fences Act by Economic Development as item 6.6.

Carried

2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes - October 10, 2019

Moved By M. Pecoskie

Seconded By P. Callaghan

That the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting held on October 10, 2019, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. Deputations/Presentations

3.1 Tracking material onto roads from agricultural fields

Bruce Kitching, Supervisor, Roads Operations, Public Works attended the meeting to discuss the issue. Bruce will work with the Agriculture Development Officer and through the Communications, Marketing and Advertising division to develop a public service announcement encouraging farmers to be mindful of this issue and that it should be cleaned up quickly due to the safety issue.

Moved By P. Brown

Seconded By T. Webster

That the deputation of Bruce Kitching, regarding mud deposited on roads by farm equipment, be received.

Carried

3.2 Farm Tax Ratio Review

Referral from October 22, 2019 Council Meeting:

CR2019-575

Moved By Councillor Ashmore

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Elmslie

That Report CORP2019-026, **Farm Tax Ratio Review**, be received and referred to the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee to provide comment.

Guest attendance by Barry Baxter, President of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture, Mark Torrey, Member Services Representative for Kawartha Lakes, and Ben Lafort, Policy Analyst, Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

B. Lafort presented "Farm Assessments & Taxes: Kawartha Lakes". The report presented by B. Lafort shows that the share of the overall tax revenue to the City by the Farm class has historically been between 1.6-1.8% of total tax revenue. With the 2016 MPAC assessments, the percentage share began a sharp and steady increase in the burden paid by the farm class to nearly 2.5% of the total tax revenue. When looking at the Farm Tax Ratio as a portion of the Residential class, if council wished to return to 2016 levels of proportion of burden the percent would be 0.16. To simply maintain 2019 proportionate share in 2020, the ratio would be 0.23. If council chooses not to reduce the ratio from the current 0.25 then the burden/contribution of total taxes from the Farm class will continue to increase in 2020 and may reach 2.5% of the total tax contribution from all sources. According to Mr. Lafort's presentation this 0.09% increase translates to an additional tax burden contribution by the Farm Class of \$855,000 above 2016 tax share of all classes. Total additional contributions by the Farm class over 2016 levels have totaled \$2.16 Million dollars due to the phase-in approach by MPAC.

The Committee reviewed the referral motion and staff report "Farm Tax Ratio Review". The Councillor will follow up to seek additional information from Corporate Services regarding the burden of all tax classes from 2001 to 2020 and bring that information back to the committee at the next meeting so that a report can be made back to council.

Moved By P. Brown

Seconded By S. Westland

That the referral by council of CORP2019-026 Farm Tax Ratio Review, be received.

Carried

Moved By M. Murphy-Ward

Seconded By S. Westland

That the presentation by Ben Lafort, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, regarding Farm Assessments & Taxes: Kawartha Lakes, be received.

Carried

4. Correspondence

- 4.1 From Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture re: Farm Tax Ratio Review

Moved By P. Brown

Seconded By A. Shea

That the correspondence from Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Federation of Agriculture, regarding disproportionate increase in farm tax burden, be received.

Carried

5. New or Other Business

6. Update from Economic Development Division

We have learned that as a result of provincial consultations the repeal of the Line Fences Act may be cancelled.

Retiring members P. Brown and T. Webster were thanked for their contributions to the committee, advice and assistance to council, to the Economic Development division and to the Agriculture Development Officer and for volunteering their time over the years they have served.

- 6.1 Skills Advance Ontario

The Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities has reviewed and provided comments on two draft versions of the application for the Skills Advance Program. Agriculture employers were thanked for submitting their testimonials. It is anticipated that the final application will be submitted in the next week, and that if approval is granted, the program development will move quickly.

- 6.2 Agricultural Soil and Water Conference - December 13

A reminder that this workshop is happening December 13, led by Kawartha Region Conservation, in partnership with City of Kawartha Lakes.

- 6.3 Agriculture and Food Action Plan - Implementation Work plan

The Action Plan was endorsed by Council in November, and will have a work plan drafted and presented to council in early 2020.

6.4 2020 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

Planning for the IPM 2020 continues by the Ontario Plowmen's Association. They have had 2 community meetings since this committee last met. They continue to sign up additional volunteers and committee work is underway. Council set aside budget to cover municipal expenses related to the event, with the intention that a working group will be formed and will begin to look at municipal participation in January.

6.5 Healthy Farmers, Healthy Farms: Supporting the backbone of rural communities - January 22, 2020

City of Kawartha Lakes has volunteered to be a hosting partner for this national workshop to address farmer mental health issues and to give the community some tools to discuss and address the challenges faced by the sector.

7. News and Updates from Members

-The municipal budgets were passed by Council last week, and Pat O'Reilly was elected Deputy Mayor for 2020.

-The bridge on St. Mary's Road is closed for repairs from November through to April. This is a route that is taken by several farms in the area, and the alternate route takes the farm equipment onto Hwy 35 or Ski Hill Road which are not suitable for large farm equipment. The detour adds about 8 minutes detour when travelling by car, but significantly longer with slower farm equipment.

-Farm and Food Care will be having an information training meeting in Peterborough January 30th.

-the Riding Regency federal beef processing plant has been closed for 12 weeks and now their licence has been revoked. They normally process 1800 per week, so there are significant backlogs due to a lack of additional processing capacity in the system. This has led to significant losses to the producer.

-The Spotlight on Agriculture Awards Nominations are open, and submissions are needed. K. Maloney will circulate nominations forms to each committee member to consider making individual nominations beyond the Committee nomination.

-Farmers are beginning to come forward identifying that they cannot make payments for farm equipment purchased on loan due to the extreme cropping year. They are asking for accommodations around payment arrangements. Also

some possibly will be failing and losing the equipment. This has not been seen for many years, and indicates the significant impact this year has had on farm financial situations. The black hole is big enough that it will take several years for some farm to recover.

-Crop Insurance is being paid out in this area and near Ottawa where farms were most affected by the drought. Drought has caused livestock to be short on feed, and farms to look for alternate sources of feed for next spring. Crop Insurance has some large claims for this area. If another season like this happens again, then there will be much more significant issues for farms. Some farms are already having to make some very hard decisions about their future.

-Many farms are trying to finish corn harvest. Stand assessments are not good and getting worse. Crop insurance claims have been submitted by some farms for every crop. Quality on corn is not getting better, but worse in some cases.

Moved By P. Brown

Seconded By Councillor Veale

That the ADAC committee nominate Trillium Lamb for the Spotlight on Agriculture Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Carried

8. Next Meeting - February 13, 2020

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Economic Development Boardroom.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:12 am.