

**The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes  
Minutes  
Agricultural Development Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

**ADAC 2023-06  
Thursday, December 14, 2023  
9:00 A.M.  
Economic Development Boardroom  
Economic Development  
180 Kent Street West, Lindsay, Ontario**

**Members:  
Councillor Ron Ashmore  
Robert Bonis  
Lukas deVos  
Will MacArthur  
Guy Masters  
Michelle Murphy Ward  
Rebecca Parker  
Adam Shea  
Alice VanVught  
David Skrabek  
Shawn Westland**

**Please contact Kelly Maloney, Economic Development Officer – Agriculture, at [kmaloney@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:kmaloney@kawarthalakes.ca) with any questions regarding this Meeting. Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. The City of Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Please contact [Agendaltems@kawarthalakes.ca](mailto:Agendaltems@kawarthalakes.ca) if you have an accessible accommodation request.**

## 1. Call to Order

Chair R. Parker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Councillor Ashmore and Members R. Bonis, L. deVos, A. Shea, D. Skrabek, and S. Westland were in attendance.

Absent: W. MacArthur, G. Masters, M. Murphy-Ward, and A. Van Vught

## 2. Administrative Business

### 2.1 Adoption of Agenda

**Moved By** R. Bonis

**Seconded By** A. Shea

**That** the agenda be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

### 2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

### 2.3 Adoption of Minutes

**Moved By** Councillor Ashmore

**Seconded By** A. Shea

**That** the minutes of the Agricultural Development Advisory Committee meeting held on October 27, 2023, be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

## 3. Deputations/Presentations

## 4. Correspondence

## 5. New or Other Business

### 5.1 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan Committee Input

Review the current Strategic Plan and provide 3 formal Committee Priorities for the next 4-year municipal strategic plan.

The Agricultural Development Advisory Committee reviewed the previous Strategic Plan and had a good discussion with the following items to put forward to Council for the new Strategic Plan. The Committee Members are keen to see a strong community future ahead.

ADAC submission for 2024-2027 Strategic Plan:

Within the Growing Economy Pillar:

1. Relating to the focus and wording of the first priority:
  1. Change the wording of the previous point #1 and keep it as the first priority to: “Support and encourage high-growth business” (Committee noted that previously two points referred to attraction, whereas one should be adjusted to focus on existing. They feel it is important to have the first priority on keeping and supporting the businesses that are here, with the main efforts on those with of scale impact.
  2. Add a new sub-point: “Support existing businesses to stay and survive and thrive” (Not just attract but support and sustain existing businesses.)
  3. “Protect and support agricultural land and businesses” (This is the same point as previous – keep it in the plan.)
2. Within an attraction-focused point priority #2:
  1. “Promote economic, social and environmental sustainable development” (Emphasis on economic and social and ensure it is written clearly to identify economic inclusion.)
  2. “Remove deterrents/barriers to new business re-location, business establishment, and business expansion”
  3. Side note – The previous second bullet in #2 is related to programs for existing businesses, not attraction, and should be moved to within #1.
3. Within the Healthy Environment Pillar:
  1. “Protect Agricultural Land” (Not just prime lands, but all lands suitable for agriculture.)

5.1.1 Design Standards to accommodate farm equipment

The Committee has previously identified concerns regarding challenges faced by road, bridge and other road infrastructure re-construction related to use by modern, larger farm equipment. The Economic Development Officer - Agriculture connected with Engineering Department Staff regarding the upcoming re-design of a key intersection in Bobcaygeon to request consideration for agricultural equipment. It was identified that a broader discussion regarding the possible development of specific standards to keep in mind generally for future infrastructure development/re-development projects related to agricultural equipment would be helpful. The committee was invited to identify a couple of

members to engage in a working group-type discussion with Engineering staff to bring forward related design standard recommendations from the agricultural sector, including consulting with other agricultural committees and organizations who might have similar recommendations. A. Shea and S. Westland volunteer to participate in this Working Group.

#### 5.1.1.1 Tree Preservation By-laws - follow-up discussions

The Committee were updated on the progress of the public consultation regarding the Tree Preservation By-law noting that the JumpIn consultation will conclude on December 22, 2023. In attendance as an observer, Paul Buckley provided some concerns, questions and observations which he will be submitting to the public consultation. The committee informally discussed some early observations and is requesting further information on cost for staff and vehicles, as well as an alternative with cost analysis for a whip sapling planting program versus mature sapling program.

**Moved By** A. Shea

**Seconded By** R. Bonis

That further information be requested regarding anticipated costs for staff and vehicles for the proposed program, as well as for an alternate whip sapling planting program, as opposed to a mature sapling planting program.

**Carried**

## 6. Update from Economic Development Division

### 6.1 Kawartha Region Local Food Wholesale Project - update

There has been very good response for the program intake with over 30 producers and approximately a dozen buyers having submitted an expression of interest to participate. Recruitment continues, in particular for additional food buyers. Discovery discussions and training development are underway, with workshops planned for February and March.

### 6.2 Heritage Farm Property, Genealogy and House Research Workshops - verbal report

Both workshops were well attended. Recordings of the presentations, and handouts with links to resources will be sent to all registered, as well as posted to the Heritage page on the City website.

### 6.3 2024 Spotlight on Agriculture Gala and Awards

Plans are underway for an event in early April. Tickets are expected to be on sale in early January. Nominations for awards will be due at the end of January.

## **7. News and Updates from Members**

- It is anticipated that 2024 will see another increase in soybean acres in the area from contract growers.
- Victoria Beef Farmers did a mailer which worked very well for their November 28 meeting. Although it is very costly, it is their only way to communicate with their membership. Sheep has same challenge, and is using only Facebook. The Beef Farmers have also used the Federation email list, recognizing that it still does not connect with all members.
- Sales of agricultural equipment is still puttering along. Consumer products category is completely non-existent under 40hp. There seems to be no disposable income for households to purchase these items currently. Electric Zero Turn mowers will be in showrooms within 2024.
- Potash is moving somewhat out to farms currently but most other fertilizer done for the year.
- 2 Town Halls were held by Councillor Ashmore with about 1500 total attending including a few hundred in-person and online. He used radio advertising, which seemed to be effective to reach people. He also attended a tour at Kawartha Dairy; participated in the Santa Clause Parade for the IPM 2024 committee.
- Canine distemper in raccoons is a significant issue now in the area. It is perpetuated by animals feeding on the carcasses of infected animals.
- The local Federation of Agriculture is doing an Agricultural Impact Study in partnership with the Peterborough Federation of Agriculture.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Economic Development Boardroom.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 11:31 a.m.