

Memo

To: Mayor and Council

From: Barbara Wiens, MCIP, RPP
Director of Community Development and Planning

Date: April 5, 2023

RE: Official Plan Review and Update

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Memo – Official Plan Review and Update, for information.

The Town Official Plan was adopted by Council in April 2012 and approved in March 2014. Since the approval of the Official Plan, 18 amendments have been made to the Plan. The Town is in the process of conducting an Official Plan review and update in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act* that will lead to the preparation of new Official Plan. As part of that process, the Town has retained WSP to conduct the conformity review of the existing Official Plan which is to identify and provide recommendations on where the Official Plan needs to be updated to conform to:

- provincial legislation including recent changes made to the *Planning Act* and other legislation
- Provincial Policy Statement 2020
- Provincial Plans including the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2020), Greenbelt Plan (2017) and Niagara Escarpment Plan (2017) and
- The recently approved Region of Niagara Official Plan (2022).

It is anticipated that WSP will have the conformity review completed and a draft conformity report prepared by the end of April 2023. The conformity review will include a review of the Town community profile, assess various policy drivers, and identify policy conflicts, gaps, and opportunities. The conformity report will be shared publicly with the community and with various agencies, i.e., Region of Niagara, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, etc., for review, input, and comment. A presentation to Council by the consultants will also occur in late spring. The conformity report will ultimately form the basis for the preparation of a new Official Plan.

Also in April, staff will launch a public engagement page on the Engaging Pelham website. Content will include reports and updates on the Official Plan review and updating process and solicit public feedback as well. The conformity report will be available on this public engagement page, along with future drafts of the Official Plan. Staff intend to have information available for the public on how to participate and

engage in the process at the Home Show on April 15th and 16th. Future open houses, other public engagement touchpoints and reporting to Council will be scheduled as the process unfolds.