

Date: April 26, 2023

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Accursi Room A, Meridian Community Centre

Attendance: Councillor Kevin Ker
Dan DeVries
Doug Wilson, Vice Chair
John Langendoen (via ZOOM)
Joyce Sonneveld
Louis Damm, Chair
Sherry Rusin
Sandra Frayne

Staff: Barbara Wiens, Director, Community Planning & Development
Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner
Craig Genesse, Senior By-law Enforcement Officer
Melissa Grodesky, By-law Enforcement Officer

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum

Noting that quorum was present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

2. Land Recognition Statement

The Chair recited the land recognition statement.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Kevin Ker
Seconded by Joyce Sonneveld

THAT the agenda for the April 26, 2023, regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be adopted.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature

There were no pecuniary interests disclosed by any of the members present.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2023

Moved By Dan DeVries
Seconded By Sandra Frayne

THAT the meeting minutes from March 22, 2023, regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

6. Regular Business**6.1. Proposed Town of Pelham Backyard Hen By-law**

The Committee reviewed the proposed Rural Hen By-law and Staff clarified points including:

- The by-law as it currently reads would only apply to properties outside the Town's Urban Area Boundary but are too small to permit agricultural uses;
 - 40 ha (approx. 100 acres) required for an agricultural use
 - 2 ha (approx. 5 acres) required for a hobby farm
- Current Zoning By-law does not permit the keeping of chickens in the urban area;
- Enforcement is on a complaint basis; and
- Licensing will help to identify where the use is occurring and give the Town a method of enforcement if necessary.

The Committee then had a lengthy discussion on the topic, brainstorming ideas and trying to find a balance between permitting the use, while protecting existing commercial farms. The discussion included:

- Avian flu and bio-security and how to ensure that backyard hens do not create any adverse impact on larger commercial operations or public health and safety;
 - Education around proper husbandry procedures;
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- Licensing requirements and the fear that if it is too difficult or expensive to get a license, people will just continue to have chickens illegally;
- Education and compliance timeframes if a By-law were to be adopted;
- Setback requirements, location and land use compatibility;
- Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) requirements; and
- Rural vs. urban properties and the desire to have one by-law that applies to the Town as a whole.

Staff noted these comments and will update the draft By-law accordingly, for review by the Committee at its next meeting.

6.2. Proposed Town of Pelham Dark Sky By-law and Greenhouse Light Mitigation By-law

Due to timing, the discussion for these By-laws was moved to the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Next Meeting

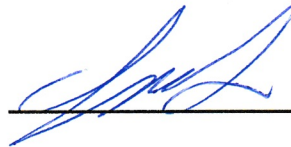
The next meeting will take place on June 14, 2023 in Council Chambers at Town Hall at 2:00 pm.

8. Adjournment

Moved by Doug Wilson
Seconded by Sherry Rusin

THAT this Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be adjourned at 10:53 am.

Carried

 *Douglas Wilson for*
Chair, Louis Damm

 *L. Richardson*

Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner
