

Date: June 14, 2023

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

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

Staff: Barbara Wiens, Director, Community Planning & Development  
Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner

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### **1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum**

Noting that quorum was present, the Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

### **2. Land Recognition Statement**

The Vice Chair recited the land recognition statement.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by** Sherry Rusin  
**Seconded by** Joyce Sonneveld

**THAT the agenda for the June 14, 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 – April 26, 2023**

**Moved By**                      **Joyce Sonneveld**  
**Seconded By**                **Sherry Russin**

**THAT the meeting minutes from April 26, 2023, regular meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved.**

**Carried**

## **6. Regular Business**

### **6.1.        Update – Region of Niagara Agriculture Economic Development Action Plan**

Town Staff provided a brief update on the Action Plan. No formal report has been provided to Staff at this time. Staff did attend a workshop in May where items were identified, and responsible agencies were suggested. Staff is of the understanding that the information from this workshop and other stakeholder consultation will be informing a final report which should be coming forward in the next month or so. Once received, Staff will forward to the Committee for their review and feedback.

### **6.2.        Proposed Town of Pelham Backyard Hen By-law**

The Committee reviewed the final draft proposed Backyard Hen By-law and requested the following be included:

- Rather than setback requirements (currently 30m frontage by 100m depth), the Committee would like to see a minimum lot area requirement of 0.4 ha, this will address lots that are irregular in shape, but still provide adequate space for the keeping of hens;
- Hen runs should be completely enclosed;
- An additional regulation that the occupant of the property (if they are not the owner) must have written permission from the owner to keep chickens before a license may be issued.

The Committee also discussed delaying the by-law for a year to monitor and address avian flu concerns, but ultimately determined that the regulations put in place should mitigate any concerns and that waiting to pass a by-law would not be beneficial to the Town.

Changes to the By-law as per the requested amendments above include:

- An additional clause in Section 4.4 of the By-law (b) that reads "in the case that the applicant is not the legal owner of the Property, a written approval letter from the registered owner or the Property acknowledging support of the application";
- Section 4.4 of the By-law (c) through (h) be renumbered accordingly;
- Section 3) on Schedule "A" be revised to read "The Licensee must lawfully occupy and reside at the Property where the Hens are kept. If the licensee is not the legal owner of the Property, they must have written approval from the legal owner of the Property.";
- Section 4) on Schedule "A" be revised to remove the lot frontage and depth requirements and instead read "(b) have a lot area of no less than 0.4ha";
- Section 9) on Schedule "A" be revised to read "Hen Coops and Hen Runs shall be completely enclosed"; and
- Section 9 be renumbered accordingly.

It was then:

**Moved By**                      **Sherry Rusin**  
**Seconded By**                **Louis Damm**

**THAT the proposed draft Backyard Hen By-law, as amended, be endorsed by the Committee;**

**AND THAT Council be advised of the Committee's recommendations.**

**Carried**

Staff have noted these comments and will update the draft By-law accordingly and provide the Committee's recommendations to Council for their consideration in July.

### **6.3.      Proposed Town of Pelham Dark Sky By-law and Greenhouse Light Mitigation By-law**

Staff provided a history of how the Greenhouse Light Mitigation By-law was created, and the Committee then discussed the proposed By-law including:

- The standards for lighting and curtains, and the amount of light and light pollution are actually being emitted by the greenhouses;
- The variable conditions in Leamington (which implemented a Greenhouse Light By-law which formed the basis of the Town's draft by-law);
- The various types of greenhouse uses and the level of light emissions from different uses (i.e. cannabis is one of the higher light users, vegetable tend to be in the mid-range, while flower growers typically use the least);
- The minimal complaints received in the Town for greenhouse lighting issues; and
- The fact that greenhouses are already subject to site plan control with a requirement that any new greenhouse must mitigate light pollution, and many existing greenhouses already have curtains.

The Committee further discussed the proposed Dark Sky By-law and determined that both By-laws should be considered in conjunction with each other. The Committee felt that the draft by-laws did not constitute a pressing matter and could wait a year. The Committee wants to take the time to review and research them in order to ensure that the recommendations for each are consistent with each other and meet the needs of the agricultural community.

It was then:

**Moved By**                      **Louis Damm**  
**Seconded By**                **Joyce Sonneveld**

**That the Greenhouse Light Mitigation By-law and Dark Sky By-law discussions be deferred for a period of one year to gather further information, research, and best practices.**

**Carried**

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on August 23, 2023 in Council Chambers at Town Hall at 2:00 pm.

**8. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Joyce Sonneveld  
**Seconded by** Sandra Frayne

**THAT this Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee  
be adjourned at 3:30 pm.**

**Carried**

*Doug Wilson*  
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**Vice Chair, Doug Wilson**

*L Richardson*  
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**Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner**