



Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: June 18, 2025
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

1. Members Present:

Vincent Sowa (Chair), Maura Romanelli, Erin Fleming, Wilma Jacobs, Larry Campbell and Peter Starcevic

2. Regrets:

Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Michiel Barnard, Mariam Abu-El-Magd and Norm Richardson

3. Others Present:

Kelly Cook (Planner) and Jo-Anne Rudy (Clerk)

4. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.

5. Declarations of Interest:

None

6. Approval of Minutes:

6.1 Approve minutes from meeting held May 21, 2025

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held May 21, 2025, were approved as presented.

7. Delegation(s):

None

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Planner update

- a. Summary of HRFA breakfast held on June 10, 2025
 - Kelly advised that she and Maura attended the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture's (HRFA) breakfast on June 10, 2025 and noted there were two speakers who shared insights about agriculture - Krista Hulshof, owner of VELD Architect and Kevin Vallier, CEO of Agritourism Ontario.
- b. Update on Halton Region Small Business Centre Review
 - Kelly advised that Halton Region is keeping their Small Business Centre but is not aware of anything that is specific for the rural/agricultural area.
- c. Proposed Amendment to the Minister's Zoning Order, Ontario Regulation 482/73
 - Kelly provided information on Environmental Registry Posting No. 025-0626 for the committee's awareness and noted that it is open for comment until July 10, 2025.

8.2 Agricultural Action Plan

- The committee reviewed the survey results prioritizing the scoped set of actions for the Agricultural Action Plan and were in agreement with the prioritization.
- It was suggested that the Chair delegate at the Committee of the Whole meeting to speak to staff's report. **Motion** - Support Vincent to delegate at the July 7, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting to speak to the Agricultural Action Plan. **CARRIED**

8.3 Food for Feedback - September 13, 2025

- Jo-Anne advised that the Food for Feedback event will be held on September 13, 2025 at Central Park and asked committee members if they would like to participate again this year.
- Members discussed and agreed that it was a great opportunity to engage with the public. Some ideas for activities could include:
 - Engage on the AAP
 - Have lots of resources for kids
 - Couple bushels of fresh fruit.

- Jo-Anne indicated that the event begins at 12 noon and ends at 4 p.m. Set-up is between 11 and 11:30 a.m. so two teams would be needed - one from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and the other from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Vincent, Peter, Larry and Erin (maybe) volunteered.
Action - Jo-Anne will follow up with members to confirm preference of morning or afternoon team.
- **Motion** - Approve an expenditure of up to \$450 for participation in the Food for Feedback event on September 13, 2025. **CARRIED**

9. Other Business:

- Kelly advised that the City participated in the hearing process for proposed Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment 225-22. The purpose of the amendment is to allow greater flexibility for the consideration of the development of agricultural uses, on-farm diversified uses, and agricultural-related uses. On June 18, 2025, the Hearing Officers released a decision recommending approval of the amendment, subject to the modifications proposed by the City of Burlington and agreed upon with the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.