



Burlington Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
Agenda

Date: June 23, 2026
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

Pages

1. Land Acknowledgement

Burlington as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinaabeg to the Haudenosaunee and the Métis – our lands spanning from Lake Ontario to the Niagara Escarpment are steeped in Indigenous history.

The territory is mutually covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy, the Ojibway, and other allied Nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

2. Declarations of Interest:

3. Approval of Minutes:

3.1 Approve minutes from meeting held May 20, 2026

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4. Delegation(s):

5. Regular Items:

5.1 Planner update

a. Information Items

a. Analysis of Bill 98 - Building Homes and Improving
Transportation Infrastructure Act

[Link to report \(Item 7.1\)](#)

b. Salt Management Plan update

[Link to report \(Item 7.8\)](#)

c. Introduction to the 2027 Official Plan Review

[Link to report \(Item 7.10\)](#)

d. 2026 Local Food Report

[Link to website](#)

b. Discussion Items

a. 2021 Census of Agriculture Snapshot for Burlington
(5 mins)

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b. First review of Agricultural Action Plan (5 mins)

5.2 Government Relations update

5.3 Review of Terms of Reference

6. Other Business:

7. Adjournment:



Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: May 20, 2026
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, Michiel Barnard, Mariam Abu-El-Magd, Peter Starcevic and Norm Richardson

2. Regrets:

None

3. Others Present:

Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Kelly Cook (Planner), Paul Szachlewicz (Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations) 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 April 15, 2026

On motion the minutes from the meeting held April 15, 2026 were approved as presented.

7. Delegation(s):

7.1 Advisory Committees of Council Governance Framework (Lisa Palermo, Manager, Committee Services & Deputy Clerk)

Lisa Palermo, Manager, Committee Services & Deputy Clerk, provided an overview of the Advisory Committees of Council Governance Framework report that will go to Council on May 26, 2026 for final approval. Lisa stated that the most recent round of engagement occurred in 2019 where several consistent themes emerged, and she noted that Clerks and engagement staff believe the insights and feedback from this past engagement remain relevant and aligned. This report proposes a framework to guide the city's decisions about Advisory Committees going forward and provides guidelines to review current committee portfolios and to determine when to establish an Advisory Committee in the future. The framework also supports the development of an effective and inclusive committee portfolio that aligns with Horizon 2050 - the community's long-term vision and strategic plan and the city's Community Engagement Charter. Staff will engage and gather input during Q3 and Q4 2026 from advisory committee members, community stakeholders who participate on advisory committees, and department staff liaisons. Findings from this engagement will be presented to Council in early 2027. Lisa welcomed and encouraged BARAAC members to participate in this engagement.

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Planner update

a. Strategic Plan update

- Kelly provided an overview of the City's Community Strategic Plan - Horizon 2050 and noted the extensive engagement that staff conducted in 2025 and 2026 with both the community and staff. Kelly added that there was low representation in terms of the rural area and mention of agriculture and/or farming as a major priority.

8.2 Government Relations update

- Paul Szachlewicz, Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations, provided brief updates on federal and provincial public affairs for Committee awareness. The highlights included:
 - Federal - \$8.8B Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build; Spring Economic Update; One Canadian Economy Regulatory Process Review; and
 - Provincial - Bill 98, *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026*; Bill 100, *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026*; Building Faster Fund Eligibility.

- Paul thanked committee members for their contributions towards informing the city's submitted delegation requests for the 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference being held in August. Staff will report back on successful submissions. The topics submitted include:
 - Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
 - Extension of designation deadline of registry listed heritage properties
 - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - Accelerating the municipal development application review process
 - Education development charges and additional residential units
 - Ministry of Infrastructure
 - Planning for Burlington's future transit-oriented communities
 - Ministry of Rural Affairs
 - City of Burlington rural Ontario development program eligibility (re-submission from 2026 ROMA Conference)
 - Ministry of the Attorney General
 - Next Generation 9-1-1 sustainability, cybersecurity and critical infrastructure resilience
 - Ministry of Transportation
 - Coordinating long-term planning for Highway 403 improvements
 - Improving local roadway safety

8.3 Review of Terms of Reference

- Committee members reviewed the current Terms of Reference and had the following suggestions.
 - Change the name of the committee.
 - The language in the second paragraph of the Background section needs updating to identify both the rural and agricultural

area in Burlington and state its existence within the NEC and Greenbelt.

- Members feel they should be doing more than advising.
- Update the main points of the Mandate to:
 1. Advise and assist in the implementation of Burlington's agricultural and food system related goals, objectives and policies.
 2. Advise and assist in the implementation of Burlington's rural goals, objectives and policies.
 3. Raise community awareness and understanding of agricultural and rural issues as they relate to the City and its activities.
- Bullets under each main point need to be streamlined to remove redundancies.
- Promotion of rural/agricultural areas as a whole needs to be stepped up by the city.
- Composition of committee needs to be updated to include a staff member from Government Relations and stakeholder opportunities from Burlington Economic Development & Tourism and Halton Region Federation of Agriculture and potentially others as non-voting members.
- Further discussion will take place at June meeting.

8.4 Food for Feedback - September 12, 2026

- Committee discussed the September 12, 2026 Food for Feedback event and decided to not participate this year.

8.5 Change of June meeting date

- Jo-Anne asked if the Committee was amenable to moving the June meeting to the week of June 22. Committee members agreed to June 23. **Motion** - Change the BARAAC meeting date from June 17 to June 23. **CARRIED**

8.6 Hydro Survey update

- Wilma advised that a total of 66 households responded to the hydro survey across rural Burlington (Wards 1, 3, 6). The Ward 6 Rural

Committee will be presenting their findings to Burlington Hydro on July 7 from 3 to 4 p.m. She noted that they will also be sending the survey results to Councillors Galbraith, Nisan and Bentivegna.

9. Other Business:

- Kelly advised that the Halton Region Federation of Agriculture (HRFA) will be hosting a breakfast on June 8 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Country Heritage Park. She will look into whether anyone can attend and will advise members.

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Agriculture at a Glance

AS OF 2025

Local Snapshot

Burlington
CENSUS DIVISION



73
farms



8,919
acres of farmland



124 acres
is the average sized farm



Local Farm Sales

22%
sell farm
products directly
to the
consumer:



0
farms operate a CSA
(Community Supported Agriculture)



1 farm sells
at farmers' markets



16 farms sell directly from their
farm, at stands, or pick-your-own

Economic Contributions in 2024

Local Impact



The local agri-food sector
employed **10,055** people
through **985** local agri-food
business establishments



- Grains & Oilseeds
- Greenhouse
- Field Vegetable



Farm Facts



13.7%
generate renewable
energy, including
solar, bioenergy and
wind power



30%
of farm
operators
are female



35.6%
are small farms
(less than \$100,000
in revenue)



Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (2025) County Profiles.