



Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

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

1. Members Present:

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

2. Regrets:

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

3. Others Present:

Kelly Cook (Planner), Paul Szachlewicz (Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations), Sabah Kazmi (Business Development & Community Planning) 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 20, 2026

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held May 20, 2026, were approved as presented.

7. Delegation(s):

None

8. Regular Items:

8.1 Planner update

- Kelly introduced Sabah Kazmi, Advisor, Business Development & Community Planning, who may attend future meetings and be a resource for the committee.

a. Information Items

- Kelly advised that she provided the following items for the committee's awareness and information.
 - a. Analysis of Bill 98 - Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act
 - b. Salt Management Plan update
 - c. Introduction to the 2027 Official Plan Review
 - d. 2026 Local Food Report

b. Discussion Items

- a. 2021 Census of Agriculture Snapshot for Burlington
 - Kelly advised that she would like to utilize the data collected through the Census every 4 years to inform the Agricultural Action Plan (AAP) review. There may also be an opportunity partner with the Halton Region Federation of Farmers (HRFA) for the production of municipally-specific snapshots for each Census.
- b. First review of Agricultural Action Plan
 - Kelly noted that the Agricultural Action Plan (AAP) is typically reviewed once per Council term. As this is an election year, the next review is expected to take place in Q1 2027 following the election and onboarding of the new Council.

8.2 Government Relations update

- Paul Szachlewicz, Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations, provided brief updates on federal and provincial public affairs for Committee awareness. Highlights include:
 - Federal:
 - House of Commons rose for the summer break on Thursday, June 18, 2026, and the government passed a

total of nineteen bills to advance its agenda. Several bills passed provide the authorization of public expenditures, namely to cover the costs of federal public administration, and a few bills passed by the House of Commons remain under Senate review.

- Bills of Interest Passed include:
 - Bill C-9, [Combatting Hate Act](#)
 - Bill C-11, [Military Justice System Modernization](#)
 - Bill C-14, [Bail and Sentencing Reform Act](#)
 - Bill C-16, [Protecting Victims Act](#)
 - Bill C-20, [Build Canada Homes Act](#)
 - Bill C-30, [Spring Economic Update](#)
- The House of Commons is expected to return on Monday, September 21, 2026, and is scheduled to sit until Friday, December 11, 2026.

○ Provincial:

- Queen's Park rose for the summer break on Tuesday, June 3, 2026, and the government passed a total of nine bills to advance its agenda.
- Bills passed include:
 - Bill 9, [Municipal Accountability Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 75, [Keeping Criminals Behind Bars Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 95, [Supply Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 97, [Plan to Protect Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2026](#)
 - Bill 98, [Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 100, [Better Regional Governance Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 101, [Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 110, [Building Billy Bishop Airport Act, 2026](#)
 - Bill 114, [HST Relief Implementation Act, 2026](#)

- While originally scheduled to return in September, the provincial government has delayed the start of the Fall Legislative Session until following the 2026 Ontario Municipal Elections on Monday, October 26, 2026. The provincial government is now slated to return on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, and is scheduled to sit until Thursday, December 10, 2026.
- The City of Burlington has applied to the [Development Charge Reduction Program](#) as per Council direction received on June 15, 2026, stemming from [Report # CAO-02-26: Supplemental Memo on Report FIN-06-26 Requesting Resolution for Council Consideration](#)
- Other Items
 - City of Burlington is monitoring data centre applications in other communities to evaluate municipal jurisdiction over zoning, staging and site plan requirements prior to any project approval.
 - Council approved submitting correspondence to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) to convey the City's opposition to the ERO Posting #026-0551, Millcroft Greens Corporation Request for a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) for Residential Uses in the City of Burlington.
 - It is important to note that both the City and the landowner have submitted separate MZO requests for the same remaining Millcroft lands. The public can submit comments to the ERO on the [landowner's MZO request](#) or on the [City's MZO request](#).

8.3 Review of Terms of Reference

- Members reviewed the suggested revisions and changes discussed at the May Committee meeting and were satisfied with the proposed updates. Jo-Anne will forward the revised document to the Legislative Services team, who are leading the Advisory Committee Review.
- Members expressed frustration with the pace of processes at City Hall and concerns regarding a perceived lack of understanding of agricultural and rural issues.

- Kelly suggested that breaking down the areas of jurisdiction by level of government might be helpful for understanding where the City is able to effect change. This would allow committee members to make informed choices in terms of where they would like to direct their efforts (i.e. choosing whether to focus on decisions that the City can make, vs. focusing on advocating for change at other levels of government).
- Vince noted that a better understanding of City decision-making processes and timelines would also be helpful.
- Vince encouraged all members to participate in the Advisory Committee Review engagement process and provide feedback as part of the consultation.

9. Other Business:

None

10. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.