

County Official Plan Project

Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting No. 20



Location: Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Attendees: Jeannette Thompson (SEL), Tiffany Ly (TL), Christina Coulter (CM), Karen Ellis (CM), Jamie Hoefling (OSM), Tom Cowie (Hiawatha FN), Kaitlin Hill (Curve Lake FN), Brian Fawcett (DD), Ed Whitmore (AN), Bryan Weir (County), Iain Mudd (County), Keziah Holden (County)

Absent: Julie Kapyrka (Curve Lake FN), Eric Rempel (NK), Laura Stone (HBM), Crystal McMillan (DD), Barb Waldron (OSM), John Connolly (CM)

Meeting started at 9:02am

Items and issues discussed at the meeting were as follows:

Business Arising from Minutes/New Business

- No change to minutes as distributed
- Growth Plan Amendment No. 1 and the provincial Land Needs Assessment (LNA) Methodology have both been approved. The LNA determines the amount of land needed to be set aside for residential and non-residential growth, and also includes an inventory of lands that are already available across the County. The results of the LNA will inform a large part of the new OP policy and provide direction for future growth.
 - Since both the LNA and Development Charges rely on similar background information, an RFP will be issued later this fall to have both of these studies undertaken at the same time. Given the scale and importance of the LNA, a consultation component is expected to be included in the RFP and lead by the consultant.
 - SEL and CM staff questioned how long the LNA will take to complete, and whether it would impact the timeline for the OP. County staff unsure at this point, but could include a timeline in RFP.
 - CM staff noted that targets in Schedule 3 to Growth Plan are now considered to be minimums. Discussion concluded that the LNA needs to be completed to determine if these minimums can be met, and if a higher number is sought by any local Municipality it must be justified in accordance with Provincial requirements and needs to be considered in the broader County context in accordance with the LNA.

Natural Core Area in Settlement Areas

- Maps of several settlement areas and rural settlements were circulated after last TAC meeting showing the extent of the proposed Natural Core Area designation
 - Most TAC members agreed that mapping reflects provincial policy and regulations of CA's, which will help to provide a coordinated approach to development. Moving forward, Natural Core Area mapping will reflect this criteria.
 - TAC broadly discussed mapping in general and it was noted that in order to understand the extent of where policies will apply, mapping is needed. LNA needs to be completed in order for final mapping to be released since it will determine the extent of any expanded settlement areas, greenfield areas, employment areas and excess lands.
 - Several TAC members requested that provincial policies be highlighted throughout the OP to show the extent of provincial legislation – education component will be necessary as part of reports and public consultation.

Revised Wording for Wetland Policies

- TAC provided comment on wetland policies which were revised based on discussions at September TAC meeting
 - Minor changes to wording to reflect potential for Natural Heritage Evaluation to identify a larger vegetation protection zone.
 - County staff to discuss with Conservation Authorities the idea of wetland compensation in settlement areas on the same property vs elsewhere in the same watershed/subwatershed

Consultation with Indigenous Communities

- TAC reviewed draft consultation wording as circulated
 - FN staff identified need to recognize Islands in the Trent Waters 36A and that these lands are shared by Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog First Nations
 - FN staff also requested wording to be added which makes applicants aware that First Nations communities may have their own consultation and accommodation protocols
 - County staff gave an overview of a GIS based screening tool that is being developed with First Nations communities which will identify features that are of interest to First Nations and, using a related decision tree, determine when First Nations should be consulted

Next Steps & Action Items

- County staff to make changes to draft policies based on review by TAC
- County staff to discuss questions raised during wetland discussion with Conservation Authority
- TAC members to forward any topics or items for discussion at future TAC meetings to County staff for inclusion on agenda

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am