

County Official Plan Project

Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2021 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting No. 23



Location: Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Attendees: Jeannette Thompson (SEL), Adele Arbor (TL), Ken Scullion (OSM), Karen Ellis (CM), Ed Whitmore (AN), Laura Stone (HBM), Julie Kapyrka (Curve Lake FN), Kaitlin Hill (Curve Lake FN), Tom Cowie (Hiawatha FN), Brian Fawcett (DD), Bryan Weir (County), Iain Mudd (County), Keziah Holden (County)

Absent: John Connolly (CM), Christina Coulter (CM), Travis Toms (NK)

Meeting started at 1:30pm

Items and issues discussed at the meeting were as follows:

Business Arising from Minutes/New Business

- No change to minutes as distributed

Provincial Update

- No response to-date from Province in regards to NHS mapping
- Reminder letter received from Growth Secretariat – Growth Plan conformity required by July 1, 2022
- A number of questions have been asked to Province, including whether lot lines can go through wetlands, Wildland Fire Assessment information, direction on significant woodlands and any other new information that we should be aware of

Council Involvement/Input

- Local Councils are eager to be involved, want opportunity to provide input on items that are important to them prior to draft document going to public
- Recognize the need for information to be released to County Council first and then to local Councils
- Important Council issues identified include severances, protection of agricultural lands and natural heritage features, employment lands/economic development
- AN, SEL Staff will be preparing reports for their Councils, CM has update report on next agenda – would be helpful to have a timeline developed

- Local Councils expect presentations, asking for input on both OP objectives and public consultation

Public Consultation

- Identified need to start engaging the public now so they are aware of (reminded) of this process, find out what issues are important and how they foresee the OP working in their communities in the future, while at the same time educating them about the framework in which we are working (Growth Plan, PPS)
- A survey/quiz (or series of shorter surveys) to be developed for release in 2nd quarter with tie back to original theme areas identified at project launch and Council education reports – important to release these to Councils
- TAC Members from OSM, CM, DD and SEL volunteered to participate in working group tasked with developing the survey
- Additional public consultation will be necessary – hope to merge this with public consultation that will be done as part of the Land Needs Assessment
 - Likely that virtual public meetings or open houses may still be necessary given ongoing pandemic – possibility of themed meetings or breakout sessions
 - Several Townships identified need for alternative methods – not everyone has access to or is comfortable using technology (call-in option for virtual meetings, distribution of paper notices and information, ability to attend in-person)
 - Will utilize website, consultation database, interest group/association distribution list, all social media platforms (County and Township), newspaper media

Process for Draft Schedule Review

- Reviewing the draft schedules requires time commitment from TAC members and County staff
- Will start with converting the existing land use schedules to an equivalent designation from the new OP and refinements made from that point forward
- Agricultural Systems mapping will be incorporated and markups provided to County staff ahead of meetings

Review of Draft Report to County Council

- CM staff suggested additional residential units as they impact the built environment, and the community has embraced this form of development – many other TAC members have also seen increase in this type of development
- SEL staff suggested giving example of major transportation corridors

Next Steps & Action Items

- County staff to monitor progress of NHS mapping, answers to questions raised and report back to TAC when response received
- County staff to prepare updated project timeline and send to TAC members and Councils
- County staff to continue working with individual Townships on land use mapping – County staff will contact staff individually to schedule meetings
- TAC members to review agricultural systems mapping and land use schedules
- TAC Working Group to develop survey/quiz for public release
- All TAC members to review consolidated draft document for comment at future meeting

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm