



DEVELOPMENT SERVICES *Staff Report*

REPORT NO: DS 2022-010

TO: Council

SUBMITTED BY: Harold O’Krafka, MCIP RPP
Director of Development Services

PREPARED BY: Harold O’Krafka, MCIP RPP
Director of Development Services

REVIEWED BY: Sharon Chambers, CAO

DATE: March 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Halton Hills Moratorium on New Gravel Pits Resolution

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report receive report DS 2022-010 for information; and further,

THAT Council consider whether they wish to adopt a resolution in support of the Halton Hills request for a moratorium on the consideration of new gravel pit applications in the Province of Ontario.

SUMMARY:

Staff have reviewed the Halton Hills resolution (Attachment A) and formatted it for consideration by Wilmot Council, per the direction of Council (Attachment B).

It is important to note that a resolution supporting a Provincial Moratorium has no impact on the ongoing processing of local applications. That would only occur if the Province decided to implement such a moratorium.

Staff are aware that North Dumfries has supported the Halton Hills resolution by crafting a resolution of their own which is attached to this report (Attachment C).

Woolwich Council has indicated support for the North Dumfries motion with the final wording of their resolution not confirmed at the time of writing this report.

BACKGROUND:

The resolution of the Town of Halton Hills requesting that the Province of Ontario impose a moratorium on the consideration of new aggregate applications was included under Correspondence on the February 28th Council Agenda.

Staff were directed to bring a report to Council on March 28th with the Halton Hills resolution formatted for Wilmot's consideration.

REPORT:

The Halton Hills resolution (Attachment A) calls for a pause in the consideration of new aggregate extraction applications across the Province pending a broad consultation process with a wide variety of stakeholders.

The Provincial consultation envisioned by Halton would:

- Develop criteria and processes for determining the need for new gravel licenses;
- Update policies/procedures for mining below the water table;
- Develop new guidelines for reprocessing to ensure sustainable aggregate supplies;
- Recommend a fair levy for gravel mining including compensation to the local community for the full environmental and infrastructure maintenance costs of extraction and distribution of aggregate; and,
- Provide greater weight to municipal input to lessen the social impacts from mining operations and trucking through local communities.

Of particular note in the resolution is the rooting of the concern in the current limitations imposed on municipalities by the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) which specifically prohibits the consideration of existing supply and demand as a factor in deliberations on new gravel pits.

Section 2.5.2 Protection of Long-Term Resource Supply of the PPS states,

2.5.2.1 As much of the mineral aggregate resources as is realistically possible shall be made available as close to markets as possible.

Demonstration of need for mineral aggregate resources, including any type of supply/demand analysis, shall not be required, notwithstanding the availability, designation or licensing for extraction of mineral aggregate resources locally or elsewhere.

As such, in the absence of a moratorium implemented by the Province, the Township is unable to consider supply and demand of aggregates as part of its review of zoning requests.

While the Planning Act does provide tools to municipalities to halt the consideration of applications where local policies are out of date or require review through an Interim Control Bylaw there is no similar mechanism available when a local Council feels Provincial Policies require review.

As such, should Council support the need for a moratorium it is important to note that it would have no actual impact on the processing of existing applications or future applications in Wilmot Township – unless the Province chose to impose such a moratorium.

It would appear from a search of media correspondence respecting the Halton Hills resolution that the resolution has not gained any significant level of traction among other municipalities at this time. In reviewing the Halton Hills resolution Township staff have a number of concerns with the broad generalizations respecting the negative impacts of aggregates and the lack of balancing concerns with any indication of the many important benefits that aggregates provide. In particular, as the Township of Wilmot is a current owner of a small aggregate operation, Council should consider the potential impact of endorsing the exact wording of the Halton Hills Moratorium resolution.

Having said that, per the direction of Council the Halton Moratorium resolution has been formatted to align with Wilmot specific circulations in the recital and is attached as Attachment B to this report.

It may be of interest to Council that the Township of North Dumfries passed a similar resolution to the Halton Hills resolution supporting a moratorium on new gravel pit applications.

The North Dumfries resolution is attached as Attachment C to this report and softens some aspects of the resolution by limiting the absolute nature of the recital respecting environmental impacts. The resolution does however remove the specific recital respecting First Nations consultation contained within the Halton Hills resolution.

The Township of Wilmot currently has a total of fifteen (15) licensed pits covering approximately 544ha. While the licenses would permit the annual extraction of approximately 6 million tonnes of aggregate, in 2020 the total extraction was approximately 1.365 million tonnes.

Notwithstanding the existing licensed supply in Wilmot, in the absence of a moratorium implemented by the Province, the Township is unable to consider supply and demand of aggregates as part of its review of zoning requests.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT STRATEGIC PLAN:

Considering and providing input to the Province on matters of concern to Council demonstrates an engaged community. Ensuring the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources promotes economic prosperity while maximizing environmental protection and sustaining quality of life.

ACTIONS TOWARDS UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no direct financial impacts of supporting the moratorium on new gravel pit applications.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A	Halton Hills Resolution
Attachment B	Draft Wilmot Resolution
Attachment C	North Dumfries Resolution