

Agricultural and Environmental Advisory Committee

Committee Type: Advisory Committee

Reports to: Council

Administered by: Legislative Services

Committee Administrator: XX

Effective: XX

1. Enabling Legislation/Authorizing By-law.

The Agriculture and Environmental Advisory Committee is established pursuant to the Township's Committee Governance Policy GP-23-01.

2. Purpose/Mandate

The purpose of the Agriculture and Environmental Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to Council and Staff related to agricultural and environmental issues including stewardship, sustainable practices, conservation, public awareness and regulatory changes. The role of this committee is to provide advice to Council not advocacy and supports a balanced approach with other Township priorities includes development, housing, agriculture, transportation and economic development.

3. Responsibilities/Specific Functions

Specifically, the Agriculture and Environmental Advisory Committee will:

- Be engaged, consulted, and comment as one common voice of an Advisory Committee of Council on proposed Official Plan Policy updates and reviews, Zoning By-law updates and reviews that affect the agricultural community and lands and provide a professional and expert agricultural community perspective;
- Identify key issues of concern for rural and agricultural communities which can be addressed by local, regional and provincial governments;
- Advise Council of changes and key issues within the agricultural industry and rural communities;
- Draw on the knowledge and expertise of members of the community regarding environmental issues and provide advice and information to Council, municipal staff and the public, as required.
- Provide advice and recommendations to municipal staff on proposed policies and the implications on the natural environment and mitigating the effects of climate change
- Identify and recommend programs which encourage public awareness, land stewardship, and education of agricultural and environmental issues;

4. Committee Composition

The Committee will be composed of five (5) citizen members.

Township of Wilmot Mayor (ex officio) and one (1) member of Council appointed by Council.

Consideration shall be given to inclusion of the following qualifications during the process:

- Persons with agricultural experience.
- Persons with rural affairs experience.
- Persons with environmental protection experience.

5. Chair Appointment

The members of the Committee shall elect a Chair from among themselves. When the Chair is absent through illness or otherwise, the Committee may appoint another member as acting Chair

6. Meeting Quorum

Quorum for the Committee shall be four (4) members.

7. Frequency and time of Hearing

The Committee will meet at a minimum once a month and may hold additional meetings as needed.

8. Agendas and Procedures

The Committee is required to publish meeting agendas in accordance with the Township of Wilmot Procedural By-law. Meetings of the Committee shall be governed by the Procedural By-law.

9. Closed Meetings

All meetings shall be public unless the committee is authorized to meet in closed session under section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Advisory Committee's may not meet in a closed session without consulting with Legislative Services prior to any discussions taking place.

10. Minutes and Reporting Requirements

The Committee is required to publish the meeting minutes in accordance with the Township of Wilmot Procedural By-law.

11. Compensation

The members of the committee shall serve in a volunteer capacity, with no remuneration.