



MEETING NOTES
Agricultural Advisory Committee
December 17, 2008
8:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Firehall Station #1

Committee Members Present: Chairman Ross Arthur, Sid Dykstra, Jeff Wilson, Jacquie Hendry, John Ardiel

Regrets: Grant McMurchy, James McKinlay, Chris Knott, Brad Oakley

TOTBM Staff: Peter Tollefsen, Cindy Welsh, Lori Carscadden

1. Presentation made by the Fire Department regarding the draft Fire Master Plan. Committee members participated in the Fire Master Plan Workshop. Notes were taken and a Summary was kept by the Fire Department as a record of the workshop.
2. **Approval of September 17, 2008 Meeting Notes:** meeting notes were received as presented.
3. **Business from September 17, 2008 meeting:**
 - #2. 3i) Minimum Distance Separation – determined that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs dictates the MDS setbacks. There is an MDS1 used for housing and an MDS2 for livestock. MDS changes were approved in 2006 which are more stringent than before, i.e. some distances have been doubled. The distance is based on different aspects of criteria, i.e. number of livestock, quantity of tillable lands, etc.
Action: PT to provide an example property showing the radius and how MDS is determined.
 - #4, ii), Page 25, Section 2.3.3(1)(b) – MDS – County of Grey went through an exercise recently wherein they determined that approximately 13 lots may be affected under the MDS; out of those 13 lots only 6 lots may be allowed to be built on. Discussion on the fact that if those 7 lots were legally created under the old MDS then they should be allowed to build upon today.
 - #4, ii) – clarification as to why wineries are specific instead of small scale industrial; reason being that it is following the guideline of the Niagara region as “value”; the County has since come out with a 2nd draft of their Official Plan and wineries are still included.
4. **Grey County draft Official Plan**

Cindy Welsh reported that the County of Grey is now on their 2nd draft of the Official Plan. The County held a Statutory Public Meeting; comments will be received until mid January/2009, with another draft to follow and a further public meeting. The five year review will be taken to County Council for adoption which will have to then go to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval.

4.a) Planning Staff Report PL.08.125, "County of Grey – Official Plan Five Year Review". This report was acknowledged by the Committee.

4.b) County of Grey – "an Overview of the Current Plan and Proposed Changes, November 25, 2008". On page 2 of the power point, "Agriculture" and "Special Agriculture" clarification was given on the 10 hectares of productive agricultural land and farm size.

- Rural designation – will allow Bed and Breakfasts in the agricultural area.

- discussion on hamlets (Banks, Redwing, Gibraltar and Slabtown) turning into growth areas; as there is no servicing in these hamlet areas the growth is limited; the County Official Plan is controlling it by way of plan of subdivision. Further discussion on urban sprawl.

- can planning policies still not recognize the settlement areas? our Plan would have to be revised to reflect the County Official Plan; the Town has expressed concern with that.

- concern with a person wanting to build in these rural hamlets knowing that they will be without certain services; those people should have the opportunity to have affordable housing.

- three types of settlement: tertiary, secondary (i.e. Chatsworth), primary (Thornbury, with Clarksburg being a primary settlement area). These should be allowed in our hamlets regardless of what the County O.P. is predicating. Infilling, land use conversion policies, population and residential limits and community improvement can all serve a purpose in the community.

- property values are less, i.e. affordable housing could be infilling.

- definition of small scale industrial/commercial is being given some flexibility; distance & floor area is more flexible.

- affordable housing – there has to be a justification by the County and that they define what it is. It is much different in our municipality than others; how is it going to be provided for. The municipality would be required to go through the same process as a developer.

- the municipality could create a Housing Authority to purchase a piece of land and go through the process for affordable housing. The Town is looking at policies in their O.P. to have developers provide a percentage towards affordable housing.

- Town of Collingwood has a Non-Profit organization; people pay rent/mortgage according to their income; our municipality is looking into that as well.

- until the attitude of people changes we would have to isolate specific areas for affordable housing units, "NIMBY".

5. **Other Business:**

- Stats Canada information – as provided with the agenda pkg for information purposes.

- Resignation of Brad Oakley and Chris Knott

Mr. Oakley and Mr. Knott's resignations will be referred to Council.

The original Terms of Reference was for eight members with ten people applying; Council accepted all ten to sit on the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Discussion on attaining a quorum or ask Council to re-appoint the seven remaining members as being the Committee.

Action: PT to report to Council with the last two resignations and request Council to allow the Committee to sit with the remaining seven people.

- Meridian Planning have been retained by the Town on the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review; a meeting will be scheduled early in January, 2009.

- RE: Government of Ontario's Proposed Ban on Cosmetic Use of Pesticides
Jacquie Hendry provided information that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is concerned that cosmetic pesticides (Bill 64) is being banned disallowing farmers to use any type of pesticides for their particular farm use. This ban is casting a negative light on farmers.

Moved by: Jacquie Hendry

Seconded by: Jeff Wilson

"THAT the Committee requests Council to indicate to the local MPP that the Town supports a delay in this pesticide regulation to enable scientific study".

Carried.

6. **Next Meeting Date:** February 18, 2009 or at the Call of the Chair

7. **Adjournment:** at 9:45 p.m.