



he Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills

**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**April 22, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

**E-participation**

Committee Present: Brenda Cochran  
Scott Sigurdson  
Lorne Heslop  
Councillor Holmes

Committee Absent: Paul Crozier  
Merlin Knapton

Staff Present: Jennifer Russell, Deputy Clerk  
Ken Kelly, CAO  
Cynthia Moyle, Acting Clerk

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Brenda Cochran, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Lorne Heslop

**Seconded by** Councillor Holmes

**THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None

**E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

None

**F. REPORTS**

None

**G. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES**

None

**H. ROUND TABLE**

None

**I. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**J. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS**

**J.1 Introduction**

Brenda Cochran, Chair, introduced the Agriculture Advisory Committee Members.

Mayor Lowry introduced guests presenting this evening.

**J.2 Overview of Role of County as Approval Authority**

Julie Stewart, Lanark County Planner, provided a background of the County's role as the approval authority and the process of an Official Plan Amendment.

The County has the authority to approve local Official Plan Amendments (OPAS) and local Official Plan 5-Year Reviews.

Official plan amendment application reports to the economic development committee of Lanark County Council. Council is the final approval authority.

The County approved OPA 21 with modifications. One of the modifications was for a specific amendment for prime agriculture component being the completion of an Agricultural Land Evaluation Area Review (LEAR).

**J.3 Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) as the Technical Advisory to County of Lanark**

John O'Neill, Rural Planner for OMMAFRA, provided an overview of the Land Area Evaluation Review (LEAR) process.

LEAR is a commonly used tool in Ontario developed by OMAFRA to provide methodology to quantitatively evaluate agriculture lands based on the land's inherent characteristics and other factors affecting agricultural potential. LEARs are a starting point to identify prime agricultural areas with stakeholder engagement from local farmers, residents with an agriculture background, etc..

#### **J.4 Overview of Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR)**

Gabrielle Snow, Planner with JL Richards gave an overview of the LEAR.

Mississippi Mills LEAR Approach Draft Approach and Preliminary Scoring Results attached to the minutes.

#### **J.5 Process – Info Session and Public Meetings**

Marc Rivet, Planner with JLRichards, provided an overview of the upcoming information session and statutory public meeting.

Virtual Information Session/Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The purpose of the session is to provide information and gather feedback from the public on the proposed OPA 29 regarding the Prime Agricultural Area Designation Review.

Statutory Public Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an opportunity to make representation regarding the proposed OPA 29 by-law amendment for the Prime Agricultural Area Designation.

#### **J.6 Discussion**

Members discussed making a submission to Council.

### **K. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting will be Thursday April 29, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.

### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by** Scott Sigurdson

**Seconded by** Lorne Heslop

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Cynthia Moyle, Acting CLERK,  
Recording Secretary