



AGENDA
AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
December 2nd, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Disclosure of Interest
4. Approval of the Previous Minutes
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 5.1 Agricultural Economic Development Opportunities
 - Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Potential
6. Other Business:
 - 6.1 Site Plan Control
 - Types of Properties
 - 6.2 Minimum Distance of Separation (MDS) Guidelines / Setbacks
 - Livestock Barns
 - Abattoirs / Slaughterhouses
 - Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
 - Agricultural Activities Near Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas
 - Cannabis
 - 6.3 Great Augusta Community Survey
 - Agricultural / Rural Highlights in Responses
 - 6.4 Arts and Agriculture in Augusta
 - Creativity / Artwork in our Rural Areas
7. Discuss Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 6th, 2021
8. Adjournment



MINUTES
AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 4th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Jonas Cole, Conor Cleary, Mayor Doug Malanka, Myron Belej
Regrets: Rob Jones, Adrian Wynands, Councillor Samantha Schapelhouman

1. Call to Order

Mayor Doug Malanka called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved.

3. Disclosure of Interest

None.

4. Approval of the Previous Minutes

Approved.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 October 22, 2020: World Energy Day / 2020 Fall Harvest Event

- The event had approximately 25 people indoors and another 5-10 people outdoors at V6 Agronomy in North Augusta.
- Committee members described it as a very interesting event with informative, relevant, and knowledgeable speakers.
- Attendees appreciated the networking opportunity, and it was a good time of year to celebrate 2020 successes in agriculture/sustainability.

5.2 Pollinator Promotion Program

- Participants will need to be mindful of prevailing winds. Crops of buckwheat or other pollinating crops/wildflowers could be planted to the east of crops and/or situated some distance from crops.
- Buckwheat may be useful for diminishing wild parsnip. Buckwheat can attract deer and may not be ideal along roadsides / in ditches. It is relatively inexpensive and may be worth trying in a pilot project.

6. Other Business

6.1 "PG-13" Pollinator Gardens Initiative

- "PG-13" = 13 New Pollinator Gardens for Augusta Township
- South Nation Conservation announced they will include a pollinator garden at their upcoming Conservation Area in Augusta.
- Perhaps local suppliers will consider donating seed to the initiative.

6.2 Regional Community Beekeeping Network Start Up

- Local beekeepers seem quite interested; approximately a dozen have signed a letter of intent in support of establishing such a regional network.
- The Ontario Beekeepers' Association (OBA) has provided a letter of support for this starting up since there is a need in Eastern Ontario.
- One or more local champions are still needed to lead or co-lead this initiative.
- Committee members suggested that the OBA may wish to run yearly events in Augusta; the Planner has already had preliminary conversations about this with OBA.

6.3 Regional Greenhouse, Flower, and Field Growers Network Start Up

- Local growers and producers seem quite interested; approximately a dozen have signed a letter of intent in support of establishing such a regional network.
- One or more local champions are still needed to lead or co-lead this initiative.

6.4 "10x10 Bloom" Business Challenge

- This challenge aims to encourage the start-up or expansion and/or registration in the Augusta Business Directory of 10 local businesses in each of the next 10 months out to the end of Summer 2020, for a total of 100 "Businesses in Bloom".
- Committee members are aware of local entrepreneurs who produce everything from preserves to crafts who may be interested in getting involved.

6.5 Growth of Augusta Farmers' Market

- The Farmers' Market began on the grounds of the former Masonic Hall in North Augusta and has moved to MERC in Maitland.
- The size of Augusta's Farmers' Market nearly tripled in size over the course of the summer.
- Engaging and registering participants in our Augusta Farmers' Market can contribute to the 10x10 Bloom Business Challenge goal.

6.6 Other Agricultural Economic Development Opportunities

- There has been recent expansion to support ethanol and alcohol/sanitizer/cosmetics production in our region.
- Trend from oil-based toward vegetable-/crop-based chemistry.
- Industrial hemp can be used for many different purposes.
- We may be able to leverage available biomaterial in Augusta.
- We may be able to use our Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to help local agricultural operators expand their businesses.

6.7 Agricultural Education Opportunities

- St. Lawrence College is offering a series of community workshops.
- Augusta has local entrepreneurs offering free community workshops and/or paid classes at St. Lawrence College this month, including John/Elizabeth Espadero (beekeeping) and Brenda Visser (flowers/gardening/native plants).

6.8 Recruitment

- One member has left the committee, and we are interested in adding 1-3 new members to the committee.
- Committee members discussed desirable areas of agriculture and rural affairs that members should be sought from (e.g., someone knowledgeable in aggregate mineral resources).

7. Adjournment

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.