

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
AGRICULTURAL POLICY & ACTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**APAC 1-2021
Friday, February 26, 2021
Committee Room 4 / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON**

Committee Members Present in Committee Room 4: Councillor Witteveen (Committee Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair); Councillors Disero, Easton, Jordan; C. Hamilton, G. Janes, J. Kikkert, C. Mullet Koop, B. Schenck (Committee Vice Chair), J. Schonberger, L. Troup, K. Wiens

Other Councillors Present via Video Conference: Councillor Huson

Absent/Regrets: Councillors Butters, Steele; A. Vaughn

Staff Present in Committee Room 4: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, K. Costantini, Senior Planner, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, L. Sicoli, Economic Development Officer

Staff Present via Video Conference: M. Evely, Legislative Coordinator, S. Norman, Senior Planner, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, K. Young, Planner

Others Present via Video Conference: J. Horner, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, T. Humphrey, Vineland Research Innovation Centre, J. Janiec, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, K. MacPhearson, Greenbelt Foundation, S. Marshall, Ontario Tender Fruit Growers, R. Vandezande, AG Enterprises

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Evely, Legislative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair

Mark Evely, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term.

Moved by Councillor Easton
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Councillor Witteveen **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term.

3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair

Mark Evely, Legislative Coordinator, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Chair. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Disero
Seconded by B. Schenck

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term, **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Chair, Mr. Evely, announced that Councillor Witteveen would be the Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term.

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Mark Evely, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term.

Moved by K. Wiens
Seconded by G. Janes

That Bill Schenck **BE NOMINATED** as Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term.

3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Mark Evelyn, Legislative Coordinator, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Vice-Chair. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Disero
Seconded by J. Kikkert

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for the 2021-2022 term, **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Vice-Chair, Mark Evelyn, Legislative Coordinator, announced that Bill Schenck would be the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Vice-Chair for the 2021-2022 term.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Witteveen assumed the Chair.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Action Plan

Janet Horner, Executive Director, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, provided information respecting Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Action Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Action Plan 2021-2026
- The Vision
- Goal A - Refine Organizational Capacity
- Goal B - Enable Economic Growth
- Goal C - Sustainable Outcomes
- Objectives and Action Items

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There were no items for consideration.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 APAC 3-2020

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Minutes - November 27, 2020

Moved by K. Wiens

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Minutes APAC 3-2020, being the minutes of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meeting held on November 27, 2020, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7.2 APAC-C 2-2021

Niagara Region Official Plan Draft Agricultural System Policies

Richard Vandezande, Consultant, AG Enterprises, and Karen Costantini, Senior Planner, provided information respecting Niagara Region Official Plan Draft Agricultural System Policies and Agricultural Land Base Mapping. Topics of the presentation included:

- Basis
- Policy Areas
- Initiatives
- Next Steps
- Context
- Provincial Agricultural Land Base Map
- Engagement Process
- Current Status

The Agricultural Land Base Mapping portion of the presentation is attached to these minutes as APAC-C 4-2021.

Moved by J. Schonberger

Seconded by G. Janes

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 2-2021, being a memorandum from E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, dated February 26, 2021, respecting Niagara Region Official Plan Draft Agricultural System Policies, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7.3 APAC-C 3-2021

2020 Niagara Region Tree and Forest By-law Annual Report

Moved by K. Wiens

Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 3-2021, being a letter to Councillor Witteveen, Chair, Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, from Grant Bivol, Executive Coordinator to the Chief Administrative Officer and Board, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, dated February 23, 2021, respecting 2020 Niagara Region Tree and Forest By-law Annual Report, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Irrigation Update

Bill Schenck, Committee Vice-Chair, provided an update respecting the Niagara Irrigation Project, highlighting the various activities that have occurred since his last update as well as next steps. Councillor Disero requested information respecting the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's interest in running a water supply line under the Garden City Skyway. Mr. Schenk, suggested forwarding this item to the Irrigation Committee for inclusion in the Irrigation Master Plan.

8.2 Official Mapping Schedules

Sarah Marshall, Ontario Tender Fruit, enquired about a letter sent to the Region in October of 2020, requesting fish habitats not to be included in Official Plan mapping schedules and the consideration of an agricultural mapping system for irrigation and drainage infrastructure. Sean Norman, Senior Planner, confirmed receipt of the letter and advised that the requests are being considered by staff.

8.3 Farm Help Housing

Committee members discussed possible exemptions from the Regional Development Charges By-law, specifically for farm help houses, as many farmers have had to build additional housing in order to remain compliant with Public Health protocols related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.4 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Update

Joe Schonberger, Committee member, advised that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Public Advisory Committee met virtually on February 25, 2021, and discussed building permit delays and watercourse mapping.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Councillor Witteveen

Committee Chair

Mark Evely

Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk