

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Keith Hamilton, Planner – Policy

DATE: November 28, 2019

MEMORANDUM NO.: MEM-PLS-2019-0010

RE: Rural Policy and Zoning Review – Project Update

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Council on the status of the Rural Policy and Zoning Review.

BACKGROUND:

The Halton Hills Rural Policy and Zoning Review was initiated in 2016 to identify necessary changes to local planning policies in the Rural/Agricultural Area to bring them into conformity with Regional Official Plan Amendment 38. The review has specifically focused on conforming to regional policies related to the Natural Heritage System, Agricultural System and aggregate resources.

The project was laid out in three phases consisting of the following:

Phase 1

- Gathering background information
- Discussion paper (prepared by Meridian Planning)
- Public consultation (strategy and initiation)

Phase 2

- Ongoing public consultation (Let's Talk Halton Hills)
- Preparation of draft amendments

Phase 3

- Ongoing public consultation
- Finalizing amendments to Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law
- Statutory Public Meeting
- Final recommendation and Council adoption

As part of the consultation strategy for this Study, a Project Liaison Committee (PLC) which included local Councillors, residents and business owners was formed. Three PLC meetings were held during phase 1 and phase 2 of the Study. In addition, a web page and Let's Talk Halton Hills page were developed to provide information to the public and gather their input and notices were mailed out to potentially impacted residents to inform them of the Study and let them know how to get involved.

COMMENTS:

In early 2019 regional staff began consulting with area municipalities as part of their Regional Official Plan Review (ROPR). Through these consultations, regional staff has proposed further additions and revisions to policies related to the Natural Heritage System, Agricultural System and aggregate resources. As a result, Town staff has opted to temporarily suspend all work on the Rural Policy and Zoning Review while the ROPR is in progress.

This project will remain on pause until the ROPR has been completed and new regional policies have been adopted. It is critical staff hold off on drafting amendments related to the Rural Policy Zoning Review, and any further public consultation, until new regional policies have been adopted in order to ensure proper conformity with the Regional Official Plan. When the new Regional Official Plan policies are approved, Town staff will re-initiate the project (i.e. drafting of amendments and Phase 3 public consultation). At the same time, staff will reach out to the public online and by mail-out. Town staff will also provide to Council an announcement of the project's re-initiation and summary of next steps.

Ward 2 Councillors have been consulted and informed of the decision to put a hold on the Study and the next steps. In addition, Town Staff will communicate the decision to the Project Liaison Committee members and ensure that they are notified once the Study resumes. This information has been posted on the Study website and Let's Talk Halton Hills page and further updates will be posted as Town staff receives more information.

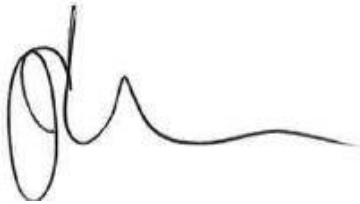
CONCLUSION:

This memorandum has provided Council with an update on the status of the Rural Policy and Zoning Review. The project will remain on pause until the Regional Official Plan Review has concluded, after which it will re-commence promptly.

Reviewed and approved by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bronwyn Parker". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Bronwyn Parker, Manager of Planning Policy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Linhardt". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Marshall". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer