

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS  
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 12:30 P.M.**

**Municipal Office, 3131 Old Perth Road, Almonte**

PRESENT: Brenda Cochran  
Lorne Heslop  
Merlin Knapton  
Scott Sigurdson  
Councillor Bev Holmes

STAFF: Niki Dwyer, Director of Planning

REGRETS: Paul Crozier

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

**A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Scott Sigurdson**

**Seconded by Merlin Knapton**

**THAT** the Agenda dated April 16, 2019 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

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

None were declared.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Lorne Heslop**

**Seconded by Scott Sigurdson**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Meeting of April 16<sup>rd</sup> 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Committee be approved.

**CARRIED**

**D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

None due to the nature of the meeting

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Draft Provincial Policy Statement

**Moved by Lorne Heslop**

**Seconded by Councillor Bev Holmes**

**THAT** the following comments be provided to Council respecting the Draft Provincial Policy Statement:

- Local municipalities should have greater autonomy and flexibility to determine the appropriateness of the inclusion and exclusion of Class 4-7 soil as Prime Agricultural Areas.
- Use of Prime Agricultural Land and Specially Crop Land for ground mount solar should be discouraged unless there is a very strong justification for the application. Any approval should be contingent upon decommissioning at the end of the use.

*Note: an On-farm diversified use to generate energy for a grain drying operating is going to be significantly greater than a livestock facility.*

- More information is necessary regarding the referenced “additional documents” and “guidelines” to fully comprehend the impact of policies proposed.

**CARRIED**

The committee discussed the proposed draft PPS and commented on relevant policies and their impact on agricultural lands. In general the Committee found that there were few significant alterations proposed in the draft.

#### **F. INFO/CORRESPONDENCE**

None presented or discussed.

#### **G. ROUNDTABLE:**

Lorne shared several upcoming events:

- Stephen Duff, OMAFRA Chief Economist will be in Perth at the County office on October 23<sup>rd</sup> between 1-3pm and again at County Council at 5pm. Lorne will distribute the Food, Agriculture and Economic Development Opportunities in Lanark County slide deck.
- Lanark County is hosting an invasive species management and monarch butterfly workshop at their office on October 19<sup>th</sup> between 10-12:30.
- Lanark Federation of Agriculture is hosting its annual Dinner and Discussion on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Howard Maines is the speaker.

Lorne also raised the closure of the Two Rivers Food Hub in Smiths Falls and encouraged the committee to support future efforts by the Food Hubs former Director in establishing another venture in the future.

Committee elected to schedule a standing meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 12:30pm.

#### **H. ANNOUNCEMENT**

None

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Merlin Knapton**

**Seconded by Scott Sigurdson**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

**CARRIED**



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Niki Dwyer MCIP RPP, Recording Secretary