



**Northumberland County
Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting
Minutes
February 20, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present:

P. Burnham, A. Carruthers, L. Meekes, M. Opsteen, B. Crews, A. Botha

Staff Present:

D. Borowec - Director Economic Development, Tourism & Land Use Planning
D. Campbell - Manager, Planning and Community Development / Chief Planner
D. Marshall - Director Public Works
T. Mellor - Manager Agri-Food
J. Moore - CAO
M. Nitsch - Deputy Treasurer
M. Stergios – EA to the CAO

Regrets: Councillor S. Jibb

1) Welcome

2) Approval of the February 20, 2024 Agenda

- February 20, 2024 agenda approved

3) Approval of the September 26, 2023 Minutes

4) Action Items and Follow Up from Previous Meeting

5) Communications

a) Open Surveys/Consultations

- Join-in Northumberland – 310 Division St. Survey & Info Sessions

6) New/Other Business

a) Official Plan Update

- Similar to the update provided in April, there have still been no answers provided by the province regarding the proposed legislative changes
- Items we were told would not be followed through on remain part of the policy statement.
- Not knowing the exact direction the province will take, the County is targeting a spring date to bring forward mapping and policy reports to the public – will be public meetings

b) High Speed Internet Updates

- Project on schedule to be completed by Dec 2025.
- Escalation of costs have presented challenges, however the County has secured 45m in additional government funding, included 50m from the private sector.
- Design build for the project is complete
- Fiber to the home

c) Fire Communications re: Tower Upgrades

- Most municipalities use the County tower and it is close to end of life
- Working with Bearcom to migrate to a digital system
- Using a number of existing towers across the County to ensure connectivity across jurisdictions and to provide redundancy
- Working through agreements with municipalities, making progress
- Will decommission tower once everything has been set up, pushing actively to speed up process

d) Northumberland County Budget Information

- Adopted first ever 3-year budget.
- 6.57% increase to levy. Includes 1% dedicated infrastructure levy.
- Also includes 1% dedicated housing levy.
- Just under 219m in expenditures.
- Average of \$93 dollars for homeowner.
- Multiyear budget still requires approval each year therefore changes can still be made

e) Drainage Update

- Draft policy complete, feedback to be received over the next few weeks/month.

7) Next Meeting

- Agenda items?

- Date to be determined