

City Of Kingston
Information Item To The Rural Advisory Committee

To: Rural Advisory Committee
From: George Sutherland, Chair
Date Of Meeting: October 23, 2017
Subject: 2016 Rural Advisory Committee Report Card

Executive Summary:

The Rural Advisory Committee (RAC) exists to provide consultative leadership and advice to staff and Council on matters of rural interest, as it relates to residential, agricultural and Council matters. Additionally, the committee represents Kingston's rural residents. In 2016, RAC accomplished many initiatives while serving as a forum for public discussion and examination of issues of interest or impact to the rural community. In May 2016, RAC hosted a public meeting to receive resident suggestions for disbursement of the Kingston Solar LP (Samsung) Renewable Energy Project – Community Benefit Fund.

2016 marks the end of the fifth full year of operation of this committee, with four meetings held during the year (December, February, May and August).

In May 2015 a work plan was presented to the Rural Advisory Committee outlining the priorities identified by members in previous meetings. Throughout 2016 the work plan was updated to reflect completed work and additional priorities for the Council term. The latest update of the work plan as provided to the Committee in February 2017 can be found in Exhibit A to this report.

Mandate Considerations:

The Rural Advisory Committee pursued consultation, demonstrated leadership and served as an avenue of communication between the City of Kingston and the rural community.

The mandate of this committee is to represent the interests of Kingston's rural residents, as they relate to residential, agricultural and rural-business matters, specifically:

1. To serve as a forum for public discussion to examine issues of interest or impact to the rural community, including but not limited to:
 - a. municipal services/infrastructure
 - b. use of private and/or public land
 - c. environmental issues

- d. socio-economic matters
 - e. wildlife management
 - f. transportation and utility corridors
 - g. snowmobile and ATV use
 - h. hunting and firearms
 - i. trails and private property
 - j. emergency services, access to health and social services and service delivery in rural areas
 - k. proposed or existing federal or provincial legislation, policies and programs
2. To provide input and advice as required, through Council or a standing committee of Council on issues of interest or impact to the rural community, including but not limited to:
- a. municipal studies, plans, by-laws and proposed projects that may have a potential rural implication
 - b. development of policies and programs
 - c. municipal economic strategies
 - d. implementation of federal and provincial legislation and programs
 - e. potential funding opportunities
 - f. strategies to improve the delivery of municipal services, programs and information and ways in which these strategies can meet the needs of rural residents
 - g. rural land stewardship programs or proposed projects of the city, community groups or other agencies
- (By-law Number 2010-205; 2011-64)
3. Review and recommend appropriate means and methods of communication, including information sessions, public meetings or other to communicate City information to rural residents and promote two-way communication between rural residents and the city.

Discussion:

A public meeting was held by RAC in May 2016 at which members of the public were invited to provide their input and suggestions for the disbursement of the Kingston Solar LP (Samsung) Renewable Energy Project – Community Benefit Fund. City staff was on hand to record suggestions, which would then be forwarded to City Council in the form of a recommendation for the disbursement of the funds. A number of residents attended the meeting and provide suggestions supporting a variety of community initiatives in the rural area.

Throughout 2016, the Rural Advisory Committee received briefings from a variety of City staff as well as outside agencies and neighbouring municipal governments. In addition to providing an educational component for Committee members and the public, these briefings allowed Committee members an opportunity to provide information and input on the unique role that Kingston's rural areas has on the many facets of City work. Briefings heard at RAC include:

- Daniel Shipp, Sustainable Initiatives Coordinator, discussing the Community Climate Action Plan and the Community Energy Plan.
- Colleen Gareau, Director, Communications & Customer Experience, with respect to improving engagement of rural residents.
- Christa Wallbridge, Business Development Manager, Kingston Economic Development Corporation regarding funding opportunities and programs in the rural area and rural business initiatives.
- Anne Marie Young, Manager, Economic Development, Frontenac County, regarding the Frontenac County Economic Development Plan.
- Scott Davis, Community Emergency Management Coordinator, discussing the City of Kingston emergency response plan in the rural area.
- Chief Shawn Armstrong, Kingston Fire & Rescue, providing information on incidents with solar voltaic installations.
- Greg Newman, Manager, Policy Planning, discussing changes to the rural area in the Official Plan update.
- Damon Wells, Director, Public Works, regarding road sweeping on rural roads.

In addition to formal briefings, RAC received reports and provide feedback on a variety of City operations and projects, including:

- Road project selection methodology utilized by the City Engineering Department for prioritizing roads under road reconstruction and rehabilitation programs.
- Large renewable energy procurement process and the implementation of the landscaping and site design guidelines for successful large renewable energy applications, specifically for Kingston Solar LP.
- The use of roadside brushing and maintenance to reduce hazards to vehicles and pedestrians through improved visibility and reduced shading, as well as improving access for other maintenance activities.
- Winter roads maintenance plans, including plowing, sanding and salting operations and pothole repair.
- The Memorial Centre remedial work and the mitigation of impact to the Kingston & District Agricultural Society and annual Fall Fair.

The Rural Advisory Committee passed a pair of motions at its February 2016 meeting requesting that Kingston City Council encourage the Province of Ontario to include Kingston's small rural businesses in the Eastern Ontario Development Fund and the Rural Economic

Development Fund and encourage the Federal government to expand the boundary of the Frontenac CFDC to match the southern boundary for the Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston riding.

Recommendation:

That the 2016 Rural Advisory Committee Report Card be approved as a summary of the work accomplished by the Rural Advisory Committee.