



**City of Kingston
Report to the Rural Advisory Committee**

To: Members of the Rural Advisory Committee
From: Josee Conway, Chair
Date of Meeting: June 28, 2021
Subject: Rural Advisory Committee 2020 Report Card

Summary of the Discussion Item:

The Rural Advisory Committee (RAC) is an advisory Committee that reports directly to Council. The Committee is composed of membership from outside the urban boundary identified in schedule 2 of the Official Plan, including: two rural residential representatives, two rural agricultural representatives, one rural-business (farm or non-farm) representative, and two city councillors.

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

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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
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.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the activities and accomplishments of the Rural Advisory Committee in 2020.

Recommendation:

That the Rural Advisory Committee recommends to Council:

That the 2020 Rural Advisory Committee Report Card be approved as a summary of the work accomplished by the Committee.

Discussion:

In 2020, the Rural Advisory Committee met on three occasions. One meeting was a traditional in-person meeting, held on Wednesday, March 9, 2020, subsequent meetings were hosted in a virtual electronic format as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the declared state of emergency in the City of Kingston.

Staff brought a total of eight reports to the Committee in 2020. The content of the reports is summarized below:

- Smart Kingston Update
- Rural Advisory Committee 2020 Work Plan
- Kingston Solar LP (Samsung) Renewable Energy Project – Community Benefit Program
- Consultation Regarding Cultural Programming Opportunities in Rural Areas of Kingston
- Rural Employment Lands Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan Update

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- Open- Air Burning Proposal
- Draft Rural Kingston Economic Strategy
- Animal By-Law Review

The Committee discussed the Kingston Solar LP (Samsung) Renewable Energy Project – Community Benefit Program with respect to the use of funds and recommended to Council that a Reserve Fund be created to accumulate funds for the purpose of parkland or natural land acquisition. Public consultation will be undertaken after 2022.

In addition to items identified in the 2020 work plan, the Committee received reports with respect to Open-Air Burning and the Animal By-Law Review which allowed Committee members and opportunity to provide feedback on the unique role that Kingston’s rural area has in connection with these projects. Throughout 2020, the importance of continuing to engage the rural community with respect to City initiatives was emphasized by the Committee.

Outlook for 2021

On March 10, 2021, the Committee approved the 2021 Work Plan and the goals for the remainder of the year. The subject items as part of this Work Plan include:

- Cultural Programming Opportunities in Rural Areas of Kingston
- Smart Kingston Update
- Emergency Management Update
- Public Works and Engineering Update
- Rural Broadband Update
- Rural Economic Development Strategy

Due to the increased profile of the Committee, important matters have been referred to the Committee by City staff in an unsolicited fashion. Examples throughout 2021 to date include the Animal Control By-Law, Open Air Burning By-Law, Local Food Strategy and Market Supports, Cultural Programming Opportunities in Rural Areas of Kingston, and the Rural Roads Plan.