



# Committee Minutes

## Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee

May 4, 2023 – 3:00 PM

The Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee met on the above date for a hybrid meeting at the County Administration Building with the following members in attendance:

**Present:** Chair Keaveney; Councillors Hutchinson, Nielsen, Bordignon, Dickert, Carleton, McKay, and Warden Milne. Members Emily Rosen, Sandy Gott, and Grace Morin.

**Regrets:** Member Roger Mooking and Councillor Boddy.

### Staff

**Present:** Kim Wingrove, CAO; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture; Steve Furness, Manager of Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture; Courtney Miller, Business Enterprise Manager; Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer; Kimberly Trombley, Administrative Assistant; Scott Taylor, Director of Planning; Liz Buckton, Senior Planner; Tara Warder, Clerk; Sarah Goldrup, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator.

**Attendees:** April Marshall, Hanover; Terri Murphy, Southgate; Paul McGrath, Owen Sound; Lorelie Spencer, West Grey.

## Call to Order

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. Councillors Hutchinson, Bordignon, and members Sandy Gott and Emily Rosen participated virtually.

## Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Tara Warder called for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

*PED01-23* Moved by: Councillor Hutchinson      Seconded by: Councillor Carleton

**That Councillor Keaveney be nominated as Chair of the Planning and**

### **Economic Development Advisory Committee for 2023.**

On motion by Councillor Dickert, nominations closed.

Councillor Keaveney accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair of the Committee for 2023.

*PED02-23* Moved by: Councillor Keaveney      Seconded by: Councillor Bordignon

### **That Councillor Hutchinson be nominated as Vice Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee for 2023.**

On motion by Warden Milne, nominations closed.

Councillor Hutchinson accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2023.

Councillor Keaveney then assumed the role of Chair.

## **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Delegations**

There were no delegations.

## **Reports**

### **Terms of Reference Review**

Kim Wingrove reviewed the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference and spoke about the purpose and scope of responsibility of the Committee.

### **Verbal Update - Departmental Overview & Introductions**

Savanna Myers introduced the Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture Department, including the business enterprise centre, Sydenham Campus, local immigration partnership, and the Grey Roots Museum and Archives. The Director spoke about focusing on first on business retention and expansion to create a supportive environment that also aids business attraction initiatives.

Scott Taylor introduced the County's Planning Department. The Director reviewed their role and functions, including planning policies, development applications, special plans and studies, and work with the agricultural sector, forestry, and trails.

## PDR-PEDAC-19-23 - County Comments on Bill 97 and Draft Provincial Policy Statement (2023)

Scott Taylor introduced the report and presented it to the Committee, reviewing the background of the province's proposed Provincial Policy Statement changes (2023 PPS) and Bill 97, *Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023*. The Director explained how the proposed regulatory changes would translate to the County and local tier planning context, focusing on growth planning, affordable housing, employment lands, major transit station areas, and climate change.

The Director shared staff's comments on the proposed regulatory changes, including support for some areas of increased flexibility, like provisions for additional dwelling units. Further, the Director expressed concern about the lack of natural heritage policies critical to understanding the full scope of the 2023 PPS, the changes to planning horizons, rewrites to climate change policies, and the lack of definitions for affordable or attainable housing.

Liz Buckton explained that following consultation with planners from other counties to develop a shared methodology for assessing land consumption, it is estimated that up to 10,000 new residential lots could be created in the agricultural designation. These residential lots could consume roughly 5,000 to 10,000 hectares of agricultural land. In contrast, the Senior Planner shared that the same development through a boundary expansion process would only utilize 580 hectares of settlement area lands or 93% less land than when dispersed through agricultural lands. Further, the Senior Policy Planner described that the proposed 2023 PPS changes could have other unintended impacts of disrupting the balance of rural and urban growth, including the potential impact of groundwater from septic beds and considerations for municipal service delivery planning and expectations.

The Committee heard comments from its members supporting the staff's comments. In response to questions from the Committee, staff discussed growth projections and the implications for infrastructure planning, service delivery and the impact of increased demand, the need for municipalities to have the autonomy to respond to local needs and conditions, and the benefit of assessing housing needs on a local income spectrum rather than market averages.

**That report PDR-PEDAC-19-23 regarding proposed Bill 97, the 'Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023' and the proposed update to the Provincial Policy Statement 2023, be received; and**

**That report PDR-PEDAC-19-23 be forwarded on to County Council for their consideration for inclusion in the County of Grey's comments on the 'Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument' posted on the Environmental Registry through posting #019-6813; and**

**That the report be shared with member municipalities having jurisdiction within Grey County; and,**

**That should the revised natural heritage policies be released with a limited commenting timeline, with no ability to prepare a further report for the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee, or County Council, that Council consider directing staff to submit comments directly to the province on those updated policies.**

Carried

## Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

## Other Business

The Committee discussed the date of future meetings and heard a round table discussion about the role of social media, business growth, and community building and how this can be supported in Grey County. The Committee also heard updates on affordable housing, social innovation, and finance tools that municipalities might use to encourage affordable housing. Further, members of the Committee spoke about business attraction, the requirement of serviced industrial or employment lands, and consultation that is being undertaken to inform the Beaver Valley Sustainable Tourism study, which aims to balance development and sustainability.

## Next Meeting Dates

**July 20, 2023, at 8:30 AM**

On motion by Councillor Carleton, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Shirley Keaveney, Chair