



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Committee Name: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee	
Frequency: Once a month or at the call of the Chair	
Enabling Legislation/By-law 3482-2020	Date of Formation: July 27, 2020
Staff Support: As assigned by the CAO	
Total # of Members: Public: Minimum 5 and Maximum 9 Council: 1 Councillor as Chair of the Committee	
<p>Mandate: Review Policy and operational matters put before the Committee through the Committee Chair to provide advice, opinion, and comment on agricultural matters.</p>	
<p>Goals/Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a continuing liaison committee to further the interests of and the promotion of agriculture and rural matters in Augusta Township by assisting members of Augusta Township’s Council to be informed on the impact of proposed policy or operational matters in place or being considered. • Review planning proposals referred by the Staff and provide advice, opinion, comment and community knowledge and identify issues relating to proposals. • Act as a continuing liaison committee to further the interest of and promote agricultural and rural functions in Augusta Township through the identification of additional issues for the planner to consider in their report to Council on land use proposals from residents or landowners as they relate to the impact on agricultural and rural lands. • Provide input on planning related matters that could have an impact on the agriculture and rural living that fall within the scope of their knowledge and experience. • Provide input on how agriculture and rural issues can be incorporated into goals, objectives and policies in the review of the Official Plan and Zoning by-law. • Offer positive and constructive ideas and advice on how their decisions can impact agriculture and rural matters. • Have regard for and provide input, advice and comments to Council relative to issues affecting agricultural and rural activities today as provided for in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Guide. • Identify opportunities for local communities to support this untapped, and sometimes undervalued, economic sector. • Provide input including advice, opinion and comment to Council in the form of Committee report(s) arising from Committee meetings on policy and operational matters of interest to or affecting agriculture and rural affairs in Augusta Township that includes: 	

Land Use Planning and Economic Development; Environment and Animal Welfare; Energy; Infrastructure (including, but not limited to, roads, bridges and drainage) and Social Services.

- Provide a forum for the exchange of information on agricultural and rural issues and initiatives and apprising the Council and Staff on potential concerns.
- Provide information for Facebook posts and website on programs that will benefit the farm and rural community, for example, 911 numbering and obtaining a farm business registration program.
- Any other applications or duties which may be specifically referred by Council to the Committee.
- Report annually to Council on success or challenges in achieving its mandate.

Skills required for members:

Ability to be available on the meeting dates on a monthly basis, knowledge of geographical uniqueness of agriculture and rural lands, broad knowledge of farming practices in the township, general knowledge of the Provincial Policy Statement as it relates to agricultural and rural lands and designation of woodlots, wetlands and species at risk; or knowledge of rural planning & drainage issues.