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resources, respect our environment, and
foster a community ready to shape its future.

Council Meeting Minutes

Date:	May 13, 2024
Time:	7:00 pm
Location:	Council Chambers
Members Present	Don Murray, Mayor Jim Hanna, Deputy Mayor Larry Allison, Councillor Ed McGugan, Councillor Carl Sloetjes, Councillor
Members Absent	Shari Flett, Councillor Scott Gibson, Councillor
Staff Present	Jennifer White, Clerk Bill Klingenberg, Manager of Building & Planning Services

1. Call to Order

Mayor Murray called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None disclosed.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No.: 05/13/24- 01

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Ed McGugan

THAT the minutes of the Council meeting of April 15, 2024, Special Council meeting of April 19, 2024 and Committee of the Whole meeting of May 6, 2024 be adopted as presented.

4. Delegations

None noted.

5. Public Meetings Required Under the Planning Act

The purpose of the application is to is for a Zoning By-law Amendment to propose to rezone a portion of the subject lands for Agriculture Use, recognize a reduced lot area of +/- 34.8 hectares (ha), permit a reduced lot frontage of +/- 20 m, prohibit residential use on the agricultural lands, and to recognize the existing buildings and structures to be in compliance with the Zoning By-law. A holding provision is also proposed in the areas of high archaeological potential

If approved, the application would facilitate a surplus farm dwelling.

The Planner explained the report and recommendation. Any comments received from Agencies and the Public received by the time of writing the report are in the written report.

Presentations from the Applicant

The applicant did not provide comment on the application.

Presentations from the Public

No members of the public were present or provided comment.

Questions and Clarifications from Council

Members of Council inquired about whether a warning clause could be included for the severed parcel to note that farming activities will be taking place on the surrounding property. The Planner noted that there is no provision that would permit this to be added to the consent terms, and that owners purchasing homes in an agricultural area should expect that there may be noises, smells, and other occurrences than would be found in a strictly residential neighborhood.

The planner noted that if the owners of the retained parcel were to add a building to the property for a new agricultural use, which included livestock, this would be affected by the Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) requirements in the Township's zoning by-law. A planning application would be required if the proposed MDS distances were not met and affected residents could provide comment at that time.

Resolution No.: 05/13/24-02

Moved By Carl Sloetjes
Seconded By Larry Allison

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council approve the planning application Z-2023-018 Snobelen;

AND FURTHER THAT the Staff bring forward the appropriate By-law at the next meeting of Council.

Carried

6. By-Laws and Agreements

6.1 Support for Modernizing the Municipal Elections Act

Resolution No.: 05/13/2024 - 03

Moved By Larry Allison
Seconded By Jim Hanna

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections; and

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process, and

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026; and

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario; and

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill; and

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce; and

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges; and

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Lisa Thompson, MPP and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

Carried

6.2 Repeal CBO By-Law

The Chief Building Official provided comments to Council and indicated appreciation for the Council/Staff working relationship. Council thanked the Chief Building Official and provided well wishes.

Resolution No.: 05/13/2024 - 04

Moved By Ed McGugan

Seconded By Jim Hanna

THAT the " Repeal CBO By-law" be deemed to be read a first, second, third time and finally passed and numbered as By-law No. 2024-48.

Carried

7. Information

Resolution No.: 05/13/24 - 05

Moved By Carl Sloetjes

Seconded By Larry Allison

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information all items listed in Section 7.

Carried

7.1 Saugeen Mobility and Regional Transit

Councillor McGugan as Chair of the SMART Board provided comments on the correspondence and noted the positive feedback provided to the Board.

8. New Business/ Council Reports

Deputy Mayor Hannah provided an update from the Multi Municipal Energy Working Group meetings. It was noted at these meetings that battery storage facilities would have unique concerns for municipalities with respect to environmental factors and fire prevention. Additionally, the MMEWG speculated on what would happen to wind generators as these assets reach their expected end of life in the next few years.

Council noted that work to repair the "bonded wearing course" materials on roads had begun. These areas were noted during the Special Meeting of Council on April 19, 2024. Staff will be verifying the quality of the finished project.

9. Confirming By-Law

Resolution No.: 05/13/24 - 06

Moved By Jim Hanna

Seconded By Ed McGugan

THAT the "Confirmatory May" By-law be deemed to be read a first, second, third time and finally passed and numbered as By-law No. 2024-49.

Carried

10. Adjournment

Resolution No.: 05/13/24 - 07

Moved By Larry Allison

Seconded By Ed McGugan

THAT this meeting adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Carried

Mayor

Clerk