Committee of the Whole (Planning)
Municipality of West Grey
Minutes of August 13th, 2019, at 1:20 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole (Planning) met at the Council Chambers with the following members in attendance.

Members Present:  Mayor Christine Robinson, Deputy-Mayor Hutchinson, Councillor Beth Hamilton, Councillor Rebecca Hergert, Councillor Doug Hutchinson, Councillor Geoffrey Shea, Councillor Stephen Townsend

Staff:  Mark Turner, Clerk

1) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest – None

2) Public Meetings - None

3) Other

  i) Regulate Keeping of Hens By-law

Recommended amendments to be incorporated in an updated Keeping of Hens By-law:

Section 1.1 – Amend definition of “Hen” to read: “Hen” means vaccinated female chicken that is at least four months old”;

Section 1.1 – Add definition of “Officer” to read: “Officer” means the Law Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, or Police Officer of the Municipality”;

Section 1.1 – Amend “Owner” definition to read: “Owner” – means a person who owns the Hens”;

Section 2.2 a) – amend to read: “a) The name, phone number, and email address of the Owner, and owner of the property on which Hens are kept”;

Section 2.2 d) – amend to read: “A statement from the Owner which affirms that all requirements of this by-law will be adhered to”;

Section 2.2 e) – New section to read: “Acknowledge Hen vaccination requirement”;

Section 2.2 f) – New section to read: “A statement from the owner of the property on which Hens are kept, if not the Owner, that consents to keeping of Hens on the property”;
Section 2.3 – leave in “….may collect a fee..” ($15 annual fee to be due and payable upon submission of required information by the owner pursuant to section 2.2, and payable by April 30th each year thereafter);

Section 3.1 – amend to read: “3.1 No person shall keep, at any one time, more than six (6) Hens per dwelling”;

Section 3.2 a) – amend to read: “The Owner has paid any applicable fee as authorized by By-law to register the hens with the Municipality”;

Section 3.2 c) – amend to read: “c) The Owner resides on the property”;

Section 3.2 d) – amend to read: “The property on which the Hens are located is zoned Residential or Future Development, and zoned Agriculture, Rural, or Restricted Rural on properties less than two (2) hectares in size. Agriculture, Rural, or Restricted Rural zoned properties greater than two (2) hectares in size are not subject to this By-law.”

Section 3.2 e) & f) – Delete;

Section 3.2 g) becomes Section 3.2 e), and is amended to read: “Hens can only be located in the side or rear yard as defined in the Zoning By-law;

Section 3.2 h) – Delete;

Section 4.1 – amend to read: “All permitted Hens shall be kept in a fully enclosed coop and run in a manner that contains the hens on the property and prevents their escape from such coop and run”

Section 4.2 – Delete;

Section 5.1 – amend to read: “Coops and any run shall be setback a minimum of 1.5 m from side and rear lot lines and a minimum of 5 metres from any dwelling unit and dug well, excluding the dwelling unit on the property on which the Hens are located”;  

Section 5.3 i) – Delete (Sections j) & k) become Sections i) & j), respectively;

Section 7.1 – amend to read: “The provisions of this By-law shall be enforced by an Officer of the Municipality”;

Section 9.1 – Okay as shown.

The Committee requested the Clerk to ask Cheryl Roberts (Canine/Animal Control Officer) if there is non-compliance by a tenant that owns the hens, would by-law enforcement proceed against the tenant, being the owner of the hens, or the owner,
whose lands the hens are on?

The Committee requested the Clerk to investigate whether or not the proposed Keeping of Hens By-law can include a provision to permit a variance from the By-law without an amendment to the By-law being required. The Clerk will also discuss with the Municipal Planner whether or not a similar provision is possible in the proposed amendments to West Grey Comprehensive Zoning By-law or Temporary Use By-law, whichever is the case, to address the Keeping of Hens By-law provisions, in order to avoid either a rezoning or minor variance application.

The Committee requested the updated draft Keeping of Hens By-law be brought forward to the August 27, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting. The Clerk will contact the Municipal Planner to determine his availability to attend the August 27, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the required amendments to West Grey Comprehensive Zoning By-law Number 37-2006, as amended, or a Temporary Use Zoning By-law, to facilitate the implementation of the proposed Keeping of Hens By-law.

The Committee questioned when final approvals can be obtained to fully implement the Keeping of Hens By-law. The Clerk noted the the required amendments to West Grey Comprehensive Zoning By-law Number 37-2006, as amended, or a Temporary Use Zoning By-law, will require a notice of public meeting and notice of passing, as applicable, with a minimum three months time frame being typical, in addition to the time required by the Municipal Planner to draft the necessary document.

4) **Next Meeting** – September 17, 2019, 1:30 p.m., West Grey Municipal Office

5) **Adjournment**

On motion of Deputy Mayor Hutchinson, and Beth Hamiton, the Committee adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

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Christine Robinson, Mayor  
Mark Turner, Clerk