

To: Members of the Sustainable Peterborough Co-ordinating Committee

From: Dawn Berry Merriam, co-chair of the Future of Food & Farming Working Group

Date: August 23, 2016

Re Update on activities of the Future of Food & Farming Working Group

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Initiatives undertaken in the last 6 months include:

- Developed workplan based on Sustainable Peterborough's Directions:

**Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?**

**Our Goal:** We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

**How Are We Going to Get There?** By following our Strategic Directions:

1. Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
2. Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
3. Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

(See attached)

- Reviewed phase 1 of the Official Plan for the City of Peterborough. Response prepared and approved in the Working Group and will be submitted to the City for consideration. (see attached)
- Participated in the consultations for Climate Change Action Plan. Response prepared and discussed in the Working Group and submitted to the consultants. (see attached)
- Developed letter of support for proposal to UNESCO re Education for Sustainable Development. Response quoted research and consultation undertaken by our Working Group such as the three Summits that we have hosted.
- Ongoing work in the Urban Agriculture Task Force initiated in fall 2014 – report to be submitted to Working Group soon
- Formed an Economic Infrastructure Task Force to explore economic opportunities for food and farming.
- Assisting Peterborough Public Health with consultation process to review a draft food charter.

**Attachment 1**  
**Proposed Work Plan for Future of Food & Farming Working Group:**

**Workplan is based on Sustainable Peterborough's Plan re**

**Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?**

**Our Goal:** We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

**How Are We Going to Get There?** By following our Strategic Directions:

1. Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
2. Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
3. Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

**Our Actions for 2016/17**

**1. Economic Infrastructure :**

Discussion:

- a. We need to expand the use of productive farmland as need for more local food grows
- b. How can we develop a local mutual fund or trust fund for farmers to buy land and equipment?
- c. Peterborough Community Credit Union offering \$15,000 to support farmland purchase
- d. Transition Town partnering with Axiom News

**Role for Working Group:**

Task: Investigate how we could promote/undertake an asset mapping exercise re what are the economic assets of our community that will support more local production.

Task: Explore what is needed to undertake a community food system assessment

Task: Host a meeting to bring together Food Action Network, Peterborough Agricultural Advisory Committee, Peterborough Economic Development, Transition Town etc.

**2. Soil Mapping Project:**

Discussion:

- a. Project should be completed within year. This will provide data/information on the physical infrastructure.

**Role of Working Group:**

Task: Review results of the Soil Mapping Project and provide input

**3. Food & Agriculture re Climate Change Project:**

Discussion:

- a. There will be a variety of recommendations and strategic directions coming out of the research/consultation
- b. Working Group will need to review recommendations

**Role of Working Group:**

Task: Review results of the project and assist with implementation in areas as appropriate.

**4. Urban Agriculture:**

Discussion:

- a. Report will be completed this year for review by the Working Group and then Sustainable Peterborough
- b. Will be important that there be clear recommended actions to increase urban agriculture capacity

**Role of Working Group**

Task: review of the report and assist with implementation strategies/process.

**5. Municipal Food Policy:**

Discussion:

- a. Board of Health has drafted a Food Charter
- b. There will be community consultation

**Role of Working Group**

Task: participate/assist with the community consultation and provide input into the process of developing/implementing policy/charter.

## Attachment 2

### Plan It Peterborough, Peterborough's Official Plan Review: 2016

The Future of Food & Farming Working Group of Sustainable Peterborough is pleased to provide the following comments, including four recommendations, on the first phase of the consultation process for the City of Peterborough Official Plan Review. The Working Group is made up of members representing a wide range of local organizations and interests. A complete list of current members is found at <http://sustainablepeterborough.ca>

We support the proposed vision that calls for *“Peterborough to develop as a complete, linked city that strives to provide for a decent home for everyone, fosters a **sustainable environment**, values its natural and cultural heritage, supports a **strong and diverse economy** and promotes a unique, vibrant sense of place for its residents and visitors. “*

We also generally support the proposed **Guiding Principles for the City** that will build:

1. *A Complete Community: that meets people’s needs for daily living throughout their lifetime by providing convenient access to a mix of jobs, services, housing, community infrastructure, open space, and transportation opportunities.*
2. *A Sustainable Environment: that can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*
3. *A Unique and Vibrant Sense of Place: that builds on Peterborough’s social and physical infrastructure.*
4. *A Linked Community: that recognizes the importance of Peterborough as a social, cultural and economic hub but that must have the ability to move people and goods throughout the city and region.*
5. *A Strong and Diverse Economy: that provides opportunities for all, including its most vulnerable.*

However, we would make the following **recommendation** for amendment to the First Guiding Principle:

That the word “food” be added after the word “housing” so that the Principle reads:

*A Complete Community: that meets people’s needs for daily living throughout their lifetime by providing convenient access to a mix of jobs, services, housing, **food**, community infrastructure, open space, and transportation opportunities.*

This amendment will tie the Guiding Principles more directly to section 3.3.18, entitled “Access to Local Food”.

We strongly support section 3.3.18, which reads:

***“The City will strive to increase production and access to local food sources through the following means:***

- a) fostering connections with regional agricultural producers;***
- b) supporting the growing of food, sharing of information on nutrition or cooking, and the sharing of produce in local neighbourhoods through community gardens and community kitchens;***
- c) supporting the continued operation of the farmers markets in the Central Area and Morrow Park and the creation of a food hub that will enable people of all incomes to meet and to access nutritious food;***
- d) supporting the continued use of land for agriculture, until it is needed for development in accordance with this Plan;***
- e) considering the use of City land for growing food; and,***
- f) encouraging private gardens throughout the community and roof top gardens in higher density locations.”***

This section builds upon a number of community plans, including the Sustainable Peterborough Plan as it relates to Food and Agriculture, that provide direction for a new Peterborough. It also reflects the extensive research that has been completed to date by Sustainable Peterborough’s Future of Food & Farming Working Group and its members, and builds on the outcomes of three Food and Farming Summits held over the past few years. Details of these may be found at <http://sustainablepeterborough.ca/about-us/working-groups/future-of-food-and-farming-working-group/>

However, we would make the following **recommendations** for adjustment to subsections to b), c) and e):

***b) supporting the growing of food, sharing of information on nutrition or cooking, and the sharing of **healthy food and skills** in local neighbourhoods **through initiatives such as cooking programs, food box programs, student nutrition programs and community gardens.*****

***c) supporting the continued operation of the farmers markets in the Central Area and Morrow Park and enabling the creation of **community food centres and food hubs that will enable*****

*people of all incomes to meet and to access nutritious food and also enable the aggregation, processing and distribution of food from the local area*

*e) considering the **expanded** use of City land for growing food;*

Subject to the recommendations above, we commend the City for its work to date as it relates to the integration of food into the Official Plan, and look forward to continuing engagement with the review process.

Further to our comments, we would like you to consider the following questions:

1. How can we build on and support the work of successful initiatives (including programs and projects led by groups including GreenUp, Peterborough Food Action Network, community gardens, the partnership of the Mount Community Centre and Farms at Work, Nourish Project and Peterborough Public Health) to support neighbourhood-centred planning?
2. What role should municipalities play in supporting the development of a complete food system?
3. What opportunities can current City of Peterborough grant programs provide to agriculture and food literacy (including growing, cooking, processing) ventures?
4. How can the municipality and the development community collaborate to support urban agriculture through such initiatives as community gardens in new developments and in existing neighbourhoods?

### Attachment 3

**The Sustainable Peterborough Working Group on the Future of Food and Farming offers the following recommendations for the SP CCAP:**

## Our Food

### Support localization of the food system

- Establish community food centres and hubs to support the local food economy, and facilitate education and access to healthy food, as well as collaboration and coordination between stakeholders along the food system (growers, processors, buyers, distributors & retailers) [collaboration with all communities]
- Continue to expand the network of community gardens throughout the Greater Peterborough Area and engage the broader community in the value of gardening [all communities]
- Support [local organizations] to provide community skill sharing programs to increase awareness among community members on how to grow, process, and store food [all communities through coordinated effort]
- Support [local organizations] in training, facilitating access to land and promoting successful entrepreneurship of new farmers and food business to increase the production and processing, distribution and retailing of local food [all communities]
- Update Official Plan policies to support the growing, processing and distribution of locally-produced food for all residents. [City, County, all communities]

### Encourage purchasing of locally produced food

- Support and enable the marketing of locally-produced food at the farmgate, at farmers' markets and through a variety of retail outlets and wholesale and institutional purchasers across the Greater Peterborough Area [all communities]

- Support and enable increased wholesale and institutional procurement of locally-produced food across the Greater Peterborough Area [all communities, City, County]
- Support [a variety of local organizations] to continue and expand efforts in support of the previous two actions [all communities, City, County]

## Reduce the amount of wasted food

- Implement campaigns and programs to encourage elimination of wasted food at all points along the value chain [all communities, County and City]