

Township of Woolwich
Summary of Recommendations to Council
From March 21, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. Endorsement of Township of North Dumfries Resolution – Moratorium on new Aggregate Operations

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich considering a resolution passed by the Township of North Dumfries and other municipalities regarding a moratorium on new aggregate operations endorse the resolution as amended:

WHEREAS Ontario currently has over 3600 licenses and 2500 permits held by Operators located throughout the Province that are able to meet the expected near term needs of Ontario's construction industry;

AND WHEREAS applications continue to be submitted without a definitive determination if there is a need for additional supply;

AND WHEREAS gravel pits and quarries can be destructive of natural environments and habitats when not properly planned and managed;

AND WHEREAS pits and quarries have negative social impacts on host communities in terms of noise, air pollution, and truck traffic;

AND WHEREAS the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change has brought awareness to the very high carbon footprint associated with the production of concrete and asphalt which are major end-users of aggregates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to impose an immediate temporary moratorium on all new gravel applications, including expansions to existing licensed sites, pending a broad consultation process that would include First Nations, affected communities, independent experts and scientists, to chart a new path forward for the extraction and processing of aggregates in Ontario which:

i) Proposes criteria and processes for determining the need for new aggregate licences (including the expansion to existing licenses);

ii) Recommends updated policies and restrictions for aggregate extraction below the water table to reflect current groundwater sciences;

iii) Assesses the cumulative impacts of aggregate operations in terms of off-site impacts to environmental systems; the groundwater regime and baseflow contributions to area watercourses, wetlands, etc; area habitat including corridors; traffic along haul routes; and, dust and noise emissions;

iv) Develops new guidelines for reprocessing / recycling of concrete and asphalt products in order to ensure sustainable aggregate supplies;

v) Recommends a fair levy for aggregate extraction that includes compensation for the full environmental and infrastructure maintenance costs to the local community of extraction and distribution of aggregate;

vi) Provides greater weight to the input by local municipalities to lessen the social impacts from aggregate extraction and truck haul routes through their communities;

vii) Provide a requirement that any new or existing gravel operation be subject to a sunset clause limiting the length of time within which the site must be extracted and rehabilitated;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the leaders of all Provincial Parties, the Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources & Forestry, the local MPP, and all area municipalities.

2. Engineering Development and Infrastructure Manual

That the Council of the Township of Woolwich, considering Report DS08-2022 respecting Engineering Development and Infrastructure Manual:

1. endorse the Engineering Development and Infrastructure Manual;
2. direct staff to utilize the Engineering Development and Infrastructure Manual in the review of development application engineering and design of infrastructure projects; and
3. direct staff, that upon approval of the Official Plan to provide a report and Delegation of delegate staff to update the Engineering and Infrastructure Manual regularly to ensure it remains current with standards and Township requirements.