



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Community Development

Date: November 4, 2024

Department: Community Development and Planning

Topic: Domestic Fowl Coop Review

Purpose: To review current zoning by-law provisions pertaining to the use and location of Domestic Fowl Coops and explore opportunities to expand the use to include all settlement areas in the municipality.

Background: Township staff was directed by the Committee of the Whole during the June 10th, 2024 committee meeting, to review the current zoning by-law provisions pertaining to the use of domestic fowl coops and if the use could be expanded to be permitted in settlement areas.

The attached report, prepared by Novatech dated October 30, 2024, reviews the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal's current zoning bylaw restrictions on domestic fowl coops, which are allowed in specific zones, subject to minimum lot size and setback distances.

The report suggests expanding permissions for these coops to additional residential zones, especially in settlement areas like Spencerville, Johnstown and Cardinal. It compares regulations from other municipalities and emphasizes the importance of setbacks to prevent water contamination, especially for lots with private wells and known Well Head Protection Areas.

Novatech's recommendation includes amending our zoning bylaw to permit coops in residential zones with continued restrictions and suggests that a licensing system could be considered that would require the owner of the property to provide the township with a site sketch showing the location of the domestic fowl coop, the location to any well on the subject property and its adjacent properties and to ensure that the required setbacks are adhered to.

Policy Implications: The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Zoning By-Law Number 2022-37 defines a Domestic Fowl Coop in Section 2, while the use of Section 4.5, Hobby Farms and Keeping of Domestic Fowl provides the provisions of where such a use can be located and its required setbacks. Novatech's recommendation is in keeping with the general intent of the township's zoning by-law.

Strategic Plan Implications: Novatech's recommendation is in keeping with the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Strategic Plan.

Financial Considerations: Novatech's recommendation to review and update Section 4.5 of the Townships Zoning By-Law related to Domestic Fowl Coops will not result in any financial implications for the Township. Further review of the permitting system for domestic fowl coops will be required.

Recommendation: That Committee direct staff to schedule a public meeting to consider the proposed zoning bylaw amendment, and further recommend that Council direct staff to draft a policy requiring permits for domestic fowl coops that will ensure compliance with setback requirements.



Tim Fisher, Municipal Land Use Planner