



## TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL DISCUSSION ITEM

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole, Community Development

**Date:** February 3, 2025

**Department:** Community Development/ Planning

**Topic:** Domestic Fowl Coop Open House Summary

**Purpose:** Township staff held an Open House on January 28, 2025 in the Council Chambers at 18 Centre Street Spencerville pertaining to the proposed changes to the Domestic Fowl Coop requirements in Section 4.5(2) of the townships Zoning By-Law.

The meeting began at 4:00pm with approximately 20 residents in attendance. Due to the number of attendees, a brief presentation was given by the Municipal Land Use Planner. An informal question and answer period followed the presentation. A copy of the question-and-answer summary and the presentation are attached to this report. The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

**Background:** Township staff was directed by the Committee of the Whole during the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

A report prepared by Novatech dated October 30, 2024, reviewed 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 suggested 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.

Township staff was directed by the Committee of the Whole during the November 4, 2024 committee meeting, directed 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.

**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.

**Strategic Plan Implications:** The proposal is in keeping with the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Strategic Plan.

**Financial Considerations:** The proposal 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 review the comments received to date and draft wording for the amendments to Section 4.5(2) for domestic fowl coops in the zoning bylaw and investigate an application or licensing process, for review at a later public meeting date.



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Tim Fisher, Municipal Land Use Planner