



## TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

**Committee:** Regular Council Meeting

**Date:** April 29, 2025

**Department:** Community Development/ Planning

**Topic:** Zoning By-Law Amendment, The Keeping of Domestic Fowl in Settlement Areas

**Purpose:** The Committee of the Whole, Community Development Committee, recommends approval of zoning by-Law amendment to permit the keeping of domestic fowl in the settlement areas of the Villages of Cardinal, Johnstown and Spencerville, as per the Draft By-Law (Exhibit A).

**Background:** Township staff was directed by the Committee of the Whole during its 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 settlement areas in the Township.

Township staff held a Public Open House on January 28th, 2025 and a Public Meeting on February 3rd, 2025 to discuss the proposed amendments to the Zoning By-Law pertaining to provisions of Domestic Fowl Coops. Staff reviewed all comments received and determined that the public not only wanted to have the domestic coops to be included in settlement areas, but wanted the Hobby Farm provisions, specifically for domestic fowl updated to lessen restrictions and allow more fowl.

A staff report and its recommendations were discussed during the Committee's March 3rd, 2025 meeting and April 7, 2025 meeting. A copy of the Supplementary Report discussed during the April 7, 2025 meeting is attached (Exhibit B).

The Committee recommended that Council approve the amendments to Section 4.5, Hobby Farms and Keeping of Domestic Fowl in Zoning By-Law 2022-37 to include provisions to permit domestic fowl to be located in the settlement area of the Villages of Cardinal, Johnstown and Spencerville, subject to the following amendments:

1. That the provision to permit the use only in the rear yard be removed to accommodate lots with large interior side yards; and
2. That the provision to require fowl to be kept in a secure coop and run include the wording " with a roof structure".

The attached Draft By-Law (Exhibit A) has been amended to reflect the requested changes.

**Policy Implications:** When a Zoning By-law amendment is considered, the proposed changes are evaluated to determine if it circumvents or undermines the policies in the Provincial Planning Statement and the Townships Official Plan. It is important to examine the Official Plan and consider the intent and purpose of the document. There can often be times when slight adjustments need to be made through a zoning amendment to the current Zoning By-law to reflect the Official Plan and the vision of Council.

The zoning by-Law amendment to amend the Hobby Farm and Domestic Fowl Coop provisions to expand the use in settlement areas and to adjust the requirements for rural areas of the Township is consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement and in keeping with the policies of the Townships Official Plan.

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

**Financial Considerations:** The amendment to permit domestic fowl in the settlement area is not anticipated to result in any financial implications for the Township.

Further review and discussion of proposed changes to domestic fowl and hobby farms in the rural area will be required.

**Recommendation:** That Council approve the amendments to Section 4.5, Hobby Farms and Keeping of Domestic Fowl in Zoning By-Law Number 2022-37, to add provisions to permit the keeping of domestic fowl in the settlement areas, as per the attached Draft By-Law (Exhibit A).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'TF', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tim Fisher, Municipal Land Use Planner

**Attachments:**

Exhibit A: Draft By-Law

Exhibit B: Supplementary Report to Committee of the Whole, CDC dated April 7, 2025