

Stakeholders List

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
Grand River Conservation Authority
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
Binbrook Agricultural Society
Rockton Agricultural Society
Ancaster Agricultural Fair
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)
The Association Sportsman Club
Canadian Shooting Sports
Canadian Outdoor Heritage Alliance
Ontario Archers Association
Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights
Haudenosaunee Wildlife & Habitat Authority
Halton Conservation Authority
Hamilton Angling and Hunting Association
Hamilton Trap / Skeet Club
Hamilton Rod & Gun Club
Hamilton District Board of Education
Hamilton International Airport
Stoney Creek Agricultural Airport
Dundas Plaza Airport Runway (Skydive Swoop)
Rockton Aerodrome (Sosa Glider Flying Club)
Silverdale Gun Club
Hamilton Gun Club
Ontario Provincial Trap Association
Mount Hope Mossy Heads
Brockley Archery Club
Waterdown Rod & Gun Club
Wentworth Shooting Sports Club
Dundas Valley Longbeards
Firearm Safety Education Services Ontario
Bruce Trail Association
Royal Canadian Legion (Dundas Branch 36)
Royal Canadian Legion (Mount Hamilton Branch 163)
Royal Canadian Legion (Hamilton Branch 315)
Royal Canadian Legion (Waterdown Branch 551)
Royal Canadian Legion (Stoney Creek Legion 662)
Royal Canadian Legion (East Hamilton Branch 58)
Royal Canadian Legion (Lyden)
Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC)
CN Railway
Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FIREARMS BY-LAW

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

January 26, 2017 Room 264, City Hall, 7pm

Invitation was sent to 43 identified stakeholders (clubs, organizations, associations) on January 4 & 5. Three agencies sent regrets (had discussion with R. Ustrzycki) identifying an additional stakeholder for consideration (Chief Firearms Office, OPP Supt. Bryan Martin 905-329-5522). 9 organizations sent delegates to the meeting (sign-in sheet).

The meeting commenced with a Power point presentation by R Ustrzycki outlining the goal, objectives and direction of the comprehensive review, followed by a Q & A to respond to any questions to record the following concerns / suggestions for review by the Working Group.

Buffer Zone for schools

Representation from the HWSB questioned the reasoning behind the 100m buffer zone and concerns with nearby residents of gun shots during hunting seasons (unrecorded). The delegate was provided with the current provisions in the City by-law (100m buffer zone), research of best practices in other jurisdictions (100m firearm / 50m bow), hunting regulations for Hamilton wildlife units (information / facts from other participants), City by-law enforcement records for 5 years (2 complaints: 0 charges). Delegate satisfied that 100m buffer zone for firearms have not been problematic.

Consensus of all participants that the By-law should provide for a reduced buffer zone (50m) for archery

Representative from CN police in consultation with CN's firearms officer, are seeking a similar 100m / 50m buffer zone for railway lands (right of way). Railway Act prohibits anyone from trespassing (Contraventions Act) on CN lands, but is silent to hunting in close proximity to the tracks.

Consultation Maps and Expansion Areas

Representative from Royal Canadian Legion Br500 concerns regarding the expansion area was addressed by the detailed maps showing their property lying outside the prohibited area.

It was the consensus of the participants that denoting the various settlement areas in the City-Wide map is exhaustive and confusing. Relying on the general provisions (i.e. buffer zones), there seemed no need to include those areas in the map.

Exemption

The Board of Education was seeking an exemption for schools providing archery instruction. The delegation was directed to the City by-law which currently provides such exemption for schools.

Members of shooting ranges / clubs were also directed to the current By-law exemptions for licensed gun clubs (shooting ranges regulated by the Firearms Act). The participants agreed that the By-law should continue to recognize these sanctioned uses, and there should be more effort to identify the various exemptions to the recreational use of firearms. There should be consideration for naming the gun ranges, sanctioned events and clubs in the By-law.

Public Engagement

Participants questioned the number of stakeholders invited to the meeting, noting that the National Firearm Association, Edmonton was not included. City staff will contact the head office for consultation.

Participants were appreciative of the open consultation / dialogue of the stakeholders meetings and requested advance notice of all reports going to Committee / Council. R Ustrycki undertook to provide advance notice of staff Committee / Council reports to the stakeholders.

Enforcement

General public have a misunderstanding of the recreational use of firearms. Land owners are frustrated by the lack of response by police, and public education. Concern was raised to the overlapping jurisdictions of the various enforcement agencies (police, MNR, Conservation, MLE) responding to contraventions of the various applicable laws resulting from the public complaints. A more collaborated effort is needed by these agencies to respond to complaints and educate the public.

Definitions

The inclusion of the word *weapon* in the definition of a firearm is darkening its recreational use, adding to the public's general misunderstanding of its lawful uses. It was the consensus of the participants that the definition should be changed to eliminate the By-law's association to the word / term *weapon* in its definition.

Overview of By-law

The mapping is outdated and confusing in its present form. It was the consensus of the participants that the overall structure of the By-law and its mapping must be simplified with more emphasis to public education and communication.

Other

Participants suggested the inclusion of City Planning staff to the Working Group. There has been preliminary consultation with the Planning staff. R. Ustrzycki will continue to meet separately with Planning staff at the conclusion of the public consultations as their contributions would fall out of the scope of the Working Group.