

KINGSTON FARMERS FOCUS GROUP

Meeting Notes **February 22, 2012**

This was a smaller group but we did have six very active participants including 4 local farmers and two Councillors. Unfortunately we did not have any non-resident farmers who either lease or own land in the Community.

Much of the discussion focused on the relationship between farmers and non-farm residents. The majority of farmers did not want any significant residential development in the vicinity of their farms due to the potential conflicts and resulting threats to farming.

A wide range of topics were discussed including:

- Negative impact of home gardening on farmers, particularly blight and other problems arising primarily from the growing of potatoes and tomatoes.
- Need for more education about backyard gardens, spread of blight.
- Need for public education on farming practices, particularly spraying and manure spreading.
- Need for “right to farm” policies.
- Discussion of support for farmers which has been expressed by the public and other focus groups.
- Negative impact of strip development, need for controls.
- Benefit of caveats on permits, etc. referring to the fact that “you are moving into a farming area and you will be subject to farm odors, spraying, slow moving equipment, harvesting and planting activities, etc.”
- Long term sustainability.
- Impact of all terrain vehicles, damage to crops and land.
- Dumping of garbage in rural areas.
- Support for riparian zones/buffers.
- Support for trail systems on farm properties.
- Need for re-instatement of Land Development Corporation.

- Total of 14 farmers in Community.
- Recreation – Carragher’s Pond.
- Lack of local recreation programs – support for Communities 13(APM Centre)
- Many residents are still connected to programs in their former communities.
- Discussion on possible approaches to restricting residential development, problems with quota approach (unfair, doesn’t reflect parcel size or carrying capacity), option of “transfer of development rights”, approvals based more on Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Setbacks from existing farming operations.