



**NOTICE OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
FOR THE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW**

Section 26(3)(b) of Planning Act

To: Prescribed Persons/Public Bodies/Interested Parties

TAKE NOTICE THAT The Township of Lanark Highlands has initiated a review of its Official Plan and will hold a Special Public Electronic Teleconference Meeting under Section 26(3)(b) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, to introduce the project to the public, discuss possible revisions that may be required and provide the public with an opportunity to submit written comments.

TAKE NOTICE THAT You are invited to participate in this special electronic teleconference public meeting for the Official Plan Review and learn more about this important project and how you can participate in the review and update of the Township's Official Plan.

AND FURTHER, TAKE NOTICE that because of the **COVID-19 PANDEMIC** the Corporation of Township of Lanark Highlands will hold **AN ELECTRONIC TELECONFERENCE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING ON:**

Date: June 29th, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Virtual - Please dial 1-855-344-7722 or 613-244-1312 and enter Conference ID: 2883824 to participate in the public meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING You are entitled to attend this special public meeting via teleconference, or you may be represented by counsel or an agent to provide information, to comment, or to ask questions about this initiative. There is no ability to attend the meeting in person therefore the Township strongly encourages written comments to be submitted prior to or following the special public meeting. We encourage anyone participating in the meeting to pre-register with the Township to ensure you are on the attendance list. To ensure that your comments are clearly understood and received prior to Council making a decision, you are strongly encouraged to submit written comments by **July 30, 2021**.

WHAT IS AN OFFICIAL PLAN? The Lanark Highland's Official Plan is the primary policy document that guides the growth and development of the Township. It contains goals, objectives and policies which provide direction on how and where the Township is to grow, along with specific policies related to the management of rural resource (agriculture, forestry, aggregate extraction), protection of natural heritage features and addresses broad land use and development issues within the Township of Lanark Highlands for the next 20 years and beyond. The Township's current Official Plan was approved in 2012.

WHY ARE WE REVIEWING OUR OFFICIAL PLAN? The purpose of the Official Plan Review is to update the policies to conform to Provincial planning legislation, including the Provincial Policy Statement (2020), and the County of Lanark Sustainable Communities Official Plan, as well as to consider comments by the public and agencies.

The Planning Act requires that a municipality's Official Plan be updated at least 10 years after first approval and then every five years after that. It is appropriate to start the review process so that an update can be considered by Council for 2022 (the 10th year anniversary of OP Approval). As the Township continues to develop and change, it is important to check the effectiveness of the Official Plan to ensure its collective vision is being realized, and to improve and enhance our policies to help the Township achieve its strategic goals and objectives.

WHY YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT? The Official Plan affects everyone in the Township of Lanark Highlands. Your vision and input is important for the Township to undertake a truly effective review of its Official Plan. Public consultation provides the opportunity for residents to participate in shaping the future vision and direction of the Township.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL is to begin the public consultation of possible changes that may be required to the Official Plan. It is intended to provide an initial opportunity for the public to offer comments regarding any issue or matter that should be considered during the Official Plan Review process and to provide input to areas of the current Official Plan that should be changed or addressed differently in the Updated Official Plan. Please note that there will be ongoing opportunities to participate in this process.

Unfortunately, the current COVID 19 restrictions makes it challenging for Council to receive public comment during Virtual Public Meeting. Understanding this, Council will be providing a 30-day opportunity for written comments from the public, until **July 30, 2021**.

Personal information contained on written comments, collected pursuant to the Planning Act, will be used for the purposes of that Act and will be part of the public record. Questions should be directed to the Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at the institution conducting the procedures under the Act.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – Additional information regarding the Official Plan Review and Update project is available for inspection online at:

<https://www.lanarkhighlands.ca/lh-business/planning/OP-Review-Update>

For additional information or to be added to the project mailing list, please contact:

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Dated at the Township of Lanark Highlands this 25th day of May, 2021