RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

Moved by: Councillor Albert Jelley  
Seconded by: Councillor Douglas Davison

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario saw fit to pass legislation in November 2004 with respect to taking steps toward the goal of an effective and accountable land-use planning system;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement, as amended by the Strong Communities (Planning Amendment) Act, 2004 came into effect March 1, 2005 with the provincial goal of creating strong communities and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Ontario by providing for appropriate development while protecting resources of provincial interest;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 3 of the Planning Act a decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government including the Municipal Board, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter, shall be consistent with this Provincial Policy Statement;

AND WHEREAS contained within the Provincial Policy Statement, Section 2.3.4 Lot Creation and Lot Adjustments, the creation of new residential lots in prime agricultural areas shall not be permitted except where a residence surplus to a farming operation as a result of farm consolidation, provided that the planning authority ensures that new residential dwellings are prohibited on any vacant remnant parcel of farmland created by the severance;

AND WHEREAS identifying and reflecting true prime agricultural areas on planning documents particularly on mixed classed lands is not an accepted practice by Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs;

AND WHEREAS the land owners in prime agricultural designated areas have been targeted by this change in planning policy with little regard given by Government of the Province of Ontario to a true reflection of prime agricultural areas, retirement consequences or financial consequences;

AND WHEREAS by enacting this Provincial Policy Statement in the manner that Government of the Province of Ontario has chosen, they have failed to demonstrate the test of reasonableness under the notion of an effective and accountable land-use planning system.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Stone Mills recommend that the Government of the Province of Ontario amend the Provincial Policy Statement to phase in Section 2.3.4 Lot Creation and Lot Adjustments over a five year period and provide to municipalities sensible and practicable solutions to identifying on planning documents a true reflection of prime agricultural areas;

AND FURTHER that all Ontario municipalities endorse these recommendations through their respective Councils and respond to the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs, their local Members of the Legislative Assembly

Reeve Douglas Bearance

Reeve