

Midhurst Secondary Plan Timeline

Please see a timeline of the Midhurst Secondary Plan below:

1983

- A settlement area for Midhurst was first developed in 1983 under the Township of Vespra.

1992

- In 1992, the Township of Vespra started to review their Official Plan. Midhurst was identified as the primary growth centre in the Vespra Plan.

1993

- In 1993, through the approval of the new Vespra Official Plan, the need for a Secondary Plan was identified for the Midhurst Settlement Area prior to any significant growth.

1996

- In 1996 a Growth Management Strategy was undertaken, which outlined the Settlement Area that we see today – Elmvale and Midhurst were identified as locations for most of the future growth for Springwater.

1998

- On February 19, 1998, the Township of Springwater Official Plan was approved establishing the Settlement Area Boundaries for Midhurst.
- The Official Plan also required that a Secondary Plan along with supplemental studies and a public process be undertaken prior to considering any significant development.

2004 - 2008

- In 2004, Springwater started a process to update its Official Plan including the Midhurst Settlement Area.
- The Township held numerous public meetings and open houses to present ideas and solicit feedback from residents. These included:
 - Public Information Meeting, May 6, 2004
 - Midhurst Stakeholder Meeting, November 10, 2005

- Resident Facilitation Meeting, March 30, 2006
- Public Community Design Session, November 15 & 16, 2007
- Design Workshop, August 5, 2008
- Statutory Public Open House, August 28, 2008
- Statutory Public Meeting, September 8, 2008

2008 – 2009

- A Phase 1 and Phase 2 Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study was commenced in June 2008 and completed in July 2009.
 - The Class EA identified:
 - Water, sewer and transportation servicing opportunities and challenges
 - Potential alternatives and preferred alternatives

2008

- Council approved the Midhurst Secondary Plan (OPA38) on November 3, 2008

2011

- The County of Simcoe approved the Midhurst Secondary Plan with modifications on October 12, 2011.
- The MSP was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) as well as five individual landowners.
- The Township held an additional Public Information Meeting on Monday, November 14, 2011 to provide updates on the progress of the plan.

2012

- On November 28, 2012 the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing withdrew part of its appeal of the Midhurst Secondary Plan.
 - As a result of the Ministry's partial withdrawal, 300 hectares out of the total 756 hectares proposed to be re-designated 'urban' in OPA 38 were cleared for development. The remaining 456 hectares and all related policies to OPA 38 will remain under appeal at the OMB

2013

- At the Council Meeting on March 18, Council passed a motion to form the Midhurst Resident Liaison Committee consisting of Council Members, members of the Midhurst Ratepayers Association, and members of the public at large.

- Council passed a motion to form a Midhurst Secondary Plan Environmental Assessment Steering Committee consisting of Council, Township staff, engineers and the Midhurst Landowners Group.
- A Public Meeting was held on May 14, 2013 at the Township Administration Centre to discuss the current status and review the next steps for the Midhurst Secondary Plan.
- An Open House was held on May 29, 2013 to refresh interested parties on the findings from the approved Phase 1 & 2 Master Plan, dated July 2009, and to provide a brief outline of the activities and schedule for the Phase 3 & 4 Class EA.
- At the June 20, 2013 meeting of the Ontario Municipal Board Hearing for the Simcoe County Official Plan, the County of Simcoe proposed a motion to dismiss the appeal of the Midhurst Ratepayers' Association (MRA). On August 2, 2013, the Ontario Municipal Board granted the County of Simcoe's motion and dismissed the appeal by the Midhurst Ratepayers' Association.
- On September 17, 2013 the Township held a Special Council Meeting to discuss the Midhurst Secondary Plan, including legal advice provided by WeirFoulds.

2014

- At the March 24, 2014 Special Planning Meeting, the Planning Committee passed a recommendation providing direction to staff regarding the April 9, 2014 OMB Pre-hearing.
- An OMB Pre-Hearing Conference was held on April 9 to determine procedural order and parties and participants related to the Midhurst Draft Subdivision Plans.
- An Open House was held on April 30, 2015 to obtain comments from residents and stakeholders regarding Draft Plans and Draft Plan Conditions.
- The Township released Preliminary Draft Plan Conditions for the Midhurst Development at an Open House on June 25. More than 150 conditions for the Midhurst subdivision, ensure that the interests of the public are safeguarded.
- At the July 3 OMB Hearing the OMB released a verbal decision to approve all six Draft Plans and the Draft Zoning By-law
- On October 6, 2014 the Township received a letter from Premier Kathleen Wynne stating that the Province of Ontario does not plan to review the Midhurst Secondary Plan.
- On October 29, 2015 the OMB released their written decision approving the Draft Plans and the Draft Zoning By-law

2015

- On January 7, 2015 Council, staff and interested stakeholders received an update and overview of the Class Environmental Assessment Process.

- On January 13, 2015 Mayor French sent a letter regarding the Midhurst Secondary Plan to Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure.
- On March 3, 2015 the OMB held a pre-hearing conference to establish timelines and procedures for property specific appeals filed by individual property owners.
- On March 19, 2015 Mayor French and Deputy Mayor Allen met with his Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss growth management and planning in Springwater, specifically the Midhurst Development. [Updated July 28, 2015]
- The Township received correspondence from the legal representatives of the Midhurst Landowners Group
- View the Mayor's reply to the correspondence from the Midhurst Landowners Group
- Correspondence to Council regarding a proposed motion on the June 22, 2015 Council agenda regarding agricultural lands
- View the Mayor's reply to the correspondence related to the Agricultural Motion on the June 22, 2015 Council agenda
- The linked background documents posted April 1 regarding a meeting with Minister Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on March 19, and have since been found to not have been posted in their entirety
- The complete background documents were posted on July 28, 2015
- On August 8, 2015, Mayor French sent a follow-up letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Growth Management Matters in the Township of Springwater
 - The Ministry acknowledged receipt of the letter on August 12, 2015
 - Minister Ted McMeekin's formal response to the Mayor's delegation on March 19, 2015
- March 3, 2015 -Pre-hearing No. 1 - Party status vs. participant status was requested
- September 18, 2015 - Pre-hearing No. 2 The purpose of the Board Hearing was to prepare and schedule future Board hearing events related to the appeals against OPA 38
 - Hearing - Overall OPA 38 Appeals: September 19, 2016 at 10:30 am (6 weeks)

2016

- January 8, 2016 - Teleconference: Pre-hearing No. 3 May 26, 2016 - County of Simcoe - 20,000 Population Allocation Program. Six requests for population totalling 6,120 people were considered; all but one was denied. The County approved allocation request made by 451052 Ontario Ltd. (Walton) for five (5) lots comprising 2.5 acres of land abutting Old Second South.

- July 18 to September 6, 2016 – 20,000 Population Jurisdictional Matter
 - July 18 - 21, 2016 - Hearing
 - August 23, 2016 and September 6, 2016 - Teleconferences
- September 16, 2016 – The Board issued a decision to ensure clarity regarding rulings and directions provided orally during the telephone conference calls on August 23 & September 6, 2016 for the hearing on OPA 38 which was scheduled to begin September 19, 2016.
- September 14 & 21, 2016 – Pre-hearing Teleconferences
- October 6, 2016 – County of Simcoe reached a settlement with the Midhurst Developers Group regarding the 20,000 Population Allocation Program
- October 24, 2016 – Media Release: County of Simcoe and Township of Springwater Reach Agreement over Midhurst Development_
- January 4, 2017 - The Board issued an order, resulting from the October 14, 2016 teleconference and October 24, 2016 hearing. The order states that the appeal by Ministry of Municipal Affairs is allowed in part and approved OPA 38, as approved by the County on October 12, 2011, in part.