

TO: Mayor Clarke and Council

FROM: Jennifer Stong, Planner

DATE: May 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Township of Ramara Zoning By-law Update
Community Engagement Strategy

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council with an update on the community engagement program to support the Zoning By-law Review and Update. The process is designed to be transparent, inclusive, and accessible, while providing multiple opportunities for participation and feedback.

Engagement Approach

The engagement program is structured in two phases, the Preliminary Consultation phase and the Proposed Zoning Consultation phase. The Preliminary Consultation phase is focused on identifying community priorities, concerns, and opportunities within the current Zoning By-law. The Proposed Zoning Consultation phase focuses on reviewing and refining the draft updated Zoning By-law based on feedback received.

A combination of online tools, surveys, open houses, and targeted stakeholder engagement will be used throughout both stages.

Key Engagement Tools

Residents can participate through:

- Community Surveys (online and paper)
- Interactive Zoning Map tool
- Public Open Houses (in-person)
- Information sheets and project updates
- Direct feedback to staff and project team

Key Dates and Milestones

Stage 1 – Preliminary Consultation (2026)

- May 2026: Launch of Community Survey and Interactive Mapping
- July 22, 2026: Introductory Open House scheduled from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- September 2026: Steering Committee Meetings commence
- Fall 2026: Summary of input prepared

Stage 2 – Proposed Zoning Consultation (2027)

- Spring 2027: Second Community Survey and updated Interactive Mapping
- Summer 2027: Public Open Houses
- Spring/Summer 2027: Steering Committee Meetings
- Fall 2027: Statutory Public Meeting before Council

Key Takeaways

- The Zoning By-law Update is a key initiative to align land use regulations with the Township's recently updated Official Plan.
- Community input is essential and will directly inform the development of the updated Zoning By-law.
- There are multiple ways to participate, including online tools, surveys, and in-person events, to ensure broad accessibility.
- Engagement is being conducted early and throughout the process to support transparent and informed decision-making.
- All feedback received will be documented and considered before the final By-law is presented to Council.

Additional Engagement

- Ongoing consultation with First Nations communities will occur throughout the project.
- A final Community Engagement Summary Report will document all input received and how it informed the updated Zoning By-law.

More Information

Residents and Council are encouraged to visit the Township's project webpage at www.ramara.ca/ZoningUpdate for detailed information, updates, and participation opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Stong, BA, CPT
Planner