Urgent Business – Amendment to Procedural By-law regarding Electronic Meeting Provisions

Whereas the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, section 238 provides that a municipality shall establish a procedure by-law to govern meetings;

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of Caledon has enacted Procedural By-law 2015-108, as amended;

Whereas on March 19, 2020 the Province of Ontario enacted the Municipal Emergency Act, 2002 to amend the Municipal Act, 2001, to enact section 238 (3.3) and 238 (3.4) to permit meetings to be held electronically during an emergency declared pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act;

Whereas the World Health Organization has declared a worldwide pandemic regarding the Novel Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19);

Whereas on March 17, 2020 a Declaration of Emergency was made by the Province of Ontario pursuant to section 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act related to COVID-19;

Whereas the Lieutenant Governor has issued Order-in-Council 520/2020, pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, prohibiting all organized public events of over fifty people due to COVID-19;

Whereas on March 18, 2020 the Town of Caledon declared an emergency under By-law 2014-076, being a by-law regarding the Town’s Emergency Management Program and Emergency Plan, pursuant to the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act;

Whereas the Town considers the protection of the health and safety of the public to be a paramount concern, and has suspended the operations of all Town facilities and services, other than those deemed essential for the welfare of the residents of Caledon during the COVID-19 emergency;

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of Caledon considers it desirable to be able to hold Council meetings electronically during the COVID-19 emergency;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council enact a By-law to amend Procedural By-law 2015-108, as amended to enable electronic meetings to be held during a period of declared emergency;

And further that any notice requirement under Section 4.4.1. (e) of the Procedural By-law 2015-108, as amended, be hereby waived for the purpose of this Motion, on the basis that the COVID-19 emergency and related social distancing and self-isolation constitute and are considered to be of an urgent or time sensitive nature, and affect the health or well-being of the residents or property in the municipality.