



Member Resource

ontario greenbelt alliance

Organizing a Virtual Meeting about the OGA Council Letter Action

What we want to Do

Help OGA members convene virtual meetings to:

- Inform their friends about local sprawl threats
- Motivate your community to contact their local Mayor/Council members (eg. by doing the OGA Action and/or writing a personal email, calling the Council members)



Why we're doing This

In many places across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, local Councils are being lobbied by developers and land speculators to adopt sprawl-style policies and developments.

Now, it's our turn to speak.

We want to convince our local Council to:

- stop supporting developers and land speculators who want permission to build sprawl-style development;
- oppose the use of Minister's Zoning Orders and proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that fast-track sprawl-style development, sidestep public consultation and override policies intended to protect Ontario's natural areas, water sources and farmland.
- protect more natural spaces, farmland and water resources (eg. by bringing more lands into the Greenbelt).

Tell Your Council:



**Stop MZOs and Sprawl.
Grow the Greenbelt.**

www.greenbeltalliance.ca

Why this will Work

We have access to something that wealthy developers and land speculators can't buy with their money: deep ties to our community. Politicians rely on voters every 4 years to get elected. If enough voters demand something, politicians can't ignore us if they want to get (re)elected.

Our deep ties come from the network of community members we are part of. Think about the people you know in your neighbourhood, school community, local service club, religious institution,, and workplace. You rely on these people to help you and they rely on you.

You have a responsibility to inform them about this local threat and the opportunity to stop it and make your lives better.

How to tap into your Community Network

There are two ways:

1. Talk to people individually. This is the best way, but it takes the most time.
2. Organize a meeting. During the COVID crisis, in person meetings should be avoided. Thankfully, there are lots of options for virtual meetings, the most common being Zoom meetings.



Easy steps to organizing a Virtual Meeting

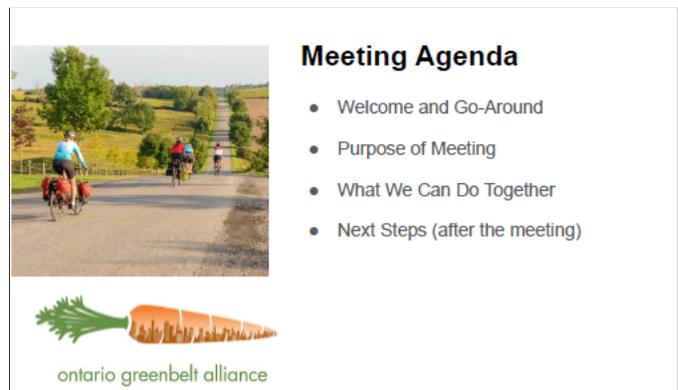
1. Decide on a date and time that works best for the people you plan to invite.
2. Then, invite people by email or by phone. Don't forget to ask them to RSVP.
3. Set up the virtual meeting. There are lots of platforms to use (eg. Zoom, Google Meet). For first time Zoom users, read this [handy guide](https://www.seniorsguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SeniorsGuide-stepbystepguidetoZoom-english0620.pdf)¹ (please note: if you are using a free version of Zoom, meetings are limited to 40 minutes). For Google Meet, online training is available [here](https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9282720?hl=en).²
4. Send out the Virtual meeting details to everyone who has RVSPed.
5. A day before the meeting, send out a reminder email.

¹ <https://www.seniorsguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SeniorsGuide-stepbystepguidetoZoom-english0620.pdf>

² <https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9282720?hl=en>

Preparing for the Virtual Meeting

1. Decide whether the people attending will be more engaged looking at you while you talk or looking at images. If you decide to use images, consider using [this google presentation](#),³ which you can customize. This presentation also contains draft talking points that can be used with the images or that can guide you if you decide not to use the images.
2. Prepare your presentation and practice it out loud. Keep it concise and short. Remember what it feels like when you are listening to someone whose presentation goes on too long. Don't be that person.
3. If you are new to virtual meetings, practice a call with a friend or two to get familiar with the tool. Better yet, find someone who knows the application to help you.



³ https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1G0VkvRroxFFw2L9dHpaKJFi0hrOY40_s2HCGymeK9K0/edit?usp=sharing