

What is a Severance (Consent)?



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A severance is a type of consent application. It is the division of a piece of land to form a new lot or parcel of land and is referred to as a consent to sever under the *Planning Act*. A consent is required if the property owner wishes to subdivide land or enter into a lease longer than 21 years. Official plans have specific policies and requirements for land severance including the maximum number of lots that can be created through severance. The application for a new lot must demonstrate that a suitable building envelope exists and servicing can be provided that complies with the Township Zoning By-law and meets the policies in the Township and County of Frontenac Official Plans. If multiple severances for the same lot are applied for, a plan of subdivision or condominium may be more appropriate.

Consents are approved by the Township Committee of Adjustment. When considering an application for severance, the Committee evaluates the application using the criteria in Section 53(12) of the *Planning Act*, including:

- The effects of the proposal on matters of provincial interest;
- Compliance with the Township Zoning By-law;
- Suitability of the land for the proposed use, including size and shape of the lot;
- Adequacy of vehicular access, water supply and sewage disposal;
- The need to ensure protection from potential flooding or other natural hazards; and
- The protection of natural features including waterbodies and wetlands.

All decisions of the Committee of Adjustment must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and conform to the Township and County of Frontenac Official Plans.

What is the Committee of Adjustment?

The Committee of Adjustment is the Township decision making committee on consent applications. The Committee makes a decision by considering:

- The application and supporting studies;
- Public input from written comments and/or presentation at the public hearing;
- Reports from planners, and other applicable agencies, including the local conservation authority; and
- Applicable tests and criteria under the *Planning Act* and other legislation.

What are Conditions of Consent?

A consent approval will have standard conditions attached such as requirements for surveying, and the payment of a parkland dedication fee (up to 5% of the value of the land) Other conditions imposed by the Committee may include road widening, a rezoning to allow a new land use, application for a minor variance or entering into an agreement with the Township. All conditions must be met within **one year** of the date of the Notice of Decision.

How Do I Get Involved?

Consent applications are required to have public notice, which includes posted signage at the property, as well as notification to neighbouring properties. Comments may be submitted through email, provided by mail, or by speaking at the public hearing in support or in opposition to the application. **Please note:** only the applicant or people who have submitted comments or presented at the meeting can appeal the Committee's decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

What is the Process for a Severance (Consent)?

Pre-Application

Before submitting an application, applicants are required to meet with planning staff to discuss the application and understand requirements. Pre-application meetings must be booked in advance. Applicants should review their official plan designation and zoning for the property; [Frontenac Maps](#) is a helpful tool for this. Applicants may also be advised to speak with the Conservation Authority or other agencies and Township departments in advance of the meeting.

Submission of a Complete Application

Once all the requirements for the application have been submitted, including any required studies and fees, the application will be deemed complete. Typically, the Township will require the application a minimum of one month in advance of the upcoming Committee meeting. Applications are not processed until they are deemed complete.

Public Notification and Circulation

Once deemed complete, the application will be scheduled for a Committee of Adjustment meeting. Staff will notify the applicant and property owners within 60 metres of the subject property by mail at least 14 days before the meeting. The applicant will be provided with a notice to be posted on the subject property or on the closest public road accessing the property. Members of the public are invited to send in comments or attend the hearing. The application is also circulated to the commenting agencies as well as to applicable Township departments. If a member of the public wishes to receive a copy of the Committee's decision, they must make a written request. All comments submitted will be reviewed by the Committee of Adjustment and become public documents.

Committee of Adjustment Meeting

The application will be reviewed at the Committee of Adjustment meeting. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the Township's website in advance of the meeting and will include the planner's report, comments from the commenting agencies and any public comments received prior to the agenda being posted. The applicant, members of the public and agencies may attend the public meeting. The applicant/agent may be asked to speak to the application and answer questions from the Committee. All others in attendance will have the opportunity to speak in support of or opposition to the application.

Notice of Decision and Appeal

The Committee of Adjustment will conditionally approve, deny, or defer an application. When a decision is made, a Notice of Decision will be mailed out outlining the decision and any conditions

within fifteen (15) days of the hearing. There is a 20 day appeal period that follows every decision of the Committee of Adjustment. For more information about appeals, including appeal rights and fees, please visit the [Ontario Land Tribunal website](#).

Fulfilling Conditions

For the decision to be finalized, the applicant is responsible for completing all conditions attached to the conditional approval. Applicants have **one year** from the date of decision to fulfill the conditions. When all conditions have been met, a Certificate of Official is issued by the Township. The Certificate of Official is sent to the owner’s lawyer to be reported to the Land Registry Office. The certificates are valid for two years so it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure the transfer is completed within that time. Once a severance is reported the land can be registered and conveyed.

For More Information

For more detailed information on the consent process, to see when meetings are, and to learn more about planning, please visit the [Township’s planning website](#).

Consent Application Process

