

**STAFF REPORT:
ADMINISTRATION**



REPORT TO: Council

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2011

REPORT NO.: SPS.11.3

SUBJECT: Agricultural Advisory
Committee-Resolutions of
February 1 and March 1, 2011.

PREPARED BY: Peter Tollefsen, Director of
Special Projects (Sustainability)

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive the Staff Report SPS.11.3 "Agricultural Advisory Committee-Resolutions of February 1 and March 1, 2011.", and;

THAT Council refer the request to exempt the 33rd Sideroad from half-load restrictions to the Engineering and Public Works Dept for investigation and report back to the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee, and:

THAT Council refer the suggestions of a noxious weed control strategy and program for 2011 to the Engineering and Public Works Dept. for investigation and report back to the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee.

B. Background

Attached is the Minutes from the February 1, 2011 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. You will note on item#10 that there was some discussion on the 33rd Sideroad upgrades and the following Motion was passed:

"THAT Council be requested to exempt the 33rd Sideroad from half-load restrictions."

At the March 1, 2011 meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee there was discussion on the noxious weed problems, in particular chervil, and is the Town staff preparing for the spring season now. Some suggestions from the Committee were made that hopefully staff are talking to suppliers now. There may be a new type of chemical spray. The Committee was wondering if the County of Grey Roads Dept. is preparing a plan to attack the chervil and giant hogweed as well.

The following MOTION was passed :

"Recommendation THAT the Engineering and Public Works Dept research and prepare for spring noxious weed (chervil) program for this year, and; THAT a response education program be established to assist the public help on private property."

The purpose of this report is to bring these motions to Council's attention and action. Staff suggest that these two motions be referred to the Engineering and Public Works Dept for investigation and response back to Council through the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

By addressing the half-load restrictions and noxious weed problem will help with achieving Goal: 5. *Ensuring long-term financial sustainability.*

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Budget Impact

None

F. Attached

Attachments :

- Meeting Notes – February 1,2011 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Tollefsen, Director of Special Projects (Sustainability)

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The Blue Mountains

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

February 1, 2011

Present: James McKinlay ; Jacquie Hendry, John Ardiel, Lance Burnham, Sid Dykstra, James Farmilo, Rod Knott, Ron Marshall, Grant McMurchy and Lynn Vail.

Staff: Peter Tollefsen; Lisa Kidd.

Guest: Larry Hall.

Peter called the meeting to order at **7:00pm** in the Building Meeting room, Town Offices.

1. **Introductions**

Peter introduced himself as the staff resource person for the Committee. Then did a round table self introduction of all the new members of the Committee, guests and staff present. Peter distributed the list of the names, email and phone number of all members to everyone asking for any corrections. Peter reviewed the night's Agenda and explained that he would run the meeting until a new Chair is elected. (Item 3 on the agenda).

2. **Background/Terms of Reference**

Peter handed out and reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee dated February 4, 2008. Comments made that the words ..."and or Council". Be added after the Goal To identify, review, discuss and make recommendations to staff... (*insert here*) ..on agricultural related issues. That under section Committee Composition; 3.1 number of members should be increased to 9 (from 8). Peter mentioned that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed and reported to Council before the end of term for this Committee.

Discussion of having a 10th member, Alan Lockhart. James and Peter to invite Alan to the next meeting.

3. **Elect a Chair** James McKinlay was elected Chair. Rod Knott was elected Vice Chair.

4. **New Business**

Agricultural and Community Taskforce letter from the North Dufferin residents concerned about the Highland Companies assembling land to permit them to open a pit mine for limestone. Invitation to attend an information session was distributed. Peter requested * to call the Chair to see if there are minutes from the January 22 session.

5. **Community Policing** Lisa introduced Larry Hall who gave an overview and handed out a brochure on Community Watch. Larry talked about Rural Watch asking for a volunteer from the Committee. Jacquie Hendry volunteered.

Concern was expressed at all the recent lowering of the speed limits along Hwy 26 coming into and out of Thornbury and Collingwood making it very difficult for vehicles of business. As urban

areas expand along the highway an increase in accesses cause traffic congestion on major arterial roads. The Committee was encouraged to participate in the Town's comprehensive review of the Official Plan.

Moved and Seconded – That the Committee ask the Town Planning Dept to have transportation policies to limit access on major arterials in the future planning. CARRIED.

6. **Share the Road Program** Lisa mentioned that she spoke to the Committee earlier about this and there was some interest in reviving the program protecting the agricultural workers on bikes. Problem was they wouldn't wear the vests. Lisa mentioned that a service club may partner with the Committee in some sort of awareness program ie; arm bands perhaps. Will be a spring safety meeting at the BVCC. A lot of cyclists searing for the Georgian trail. * Peter to talk to the Georgian Trail Board that there should be more signage to direct bikes to the Georgian Trail.
7. **Apple Harvest Festival** Peter read out an email from Peter McGee asking the Committee for assistance for the festival over the Thanksgiving weekend. More for the planning of the event to have more of an apple presence at the meetings to set up the Festival. Suggestion to Peter to call Harvey McMurchy.
8. **Centurion Bike Event 2011** From Shawn Everitt; event will be the same weekend as last year September. Planning meetings have commenced. Look forward to working with the Committee again. * should be something for local residents ie; a 10 km family fun run.
9. **Tree Planting Earth Day** Shawn E ; have a great partnership with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Ministry Of Natural Resources. One option is tree planting along the watershed to enhance riparian areas to filter nutrient run off (*The Committee requested the last 4 words be deleted and replaced with "improve fish habitat"*) in the river as well as provide river bank stabilization to decrease erosion.
10. **33rd Sideroad-road upgrades** James and Grant got a call from Blue Water Storage being asked by the Town to pay for road repairs. Felt that the Town hasn't done any road work. Signs restricting loads only went up for the first time last year. Classified a seasonal road.

Moved and seconded; That Council be requested to exempt the 33rd Sideroad from half-load restrictions. CARRIED
11. **Environmental Farm Plan** Peter talked about the Committees proposal to Council to top up an existing program for Blue Mountain landowners. An enhanced budget item has been put in the 2011 Budget package which means it is not included in the 2% budget increase budget for the Town. Council still going through the budgets , not yet approved. The Committee felt it would be helpful for the Chair James and Ray Robertson to meet with Council as soon as possible with more information on the Committee project proposal. *Peter to book a delegation request with the Town Clerk to appear before a Council meeting.
12. **University of Guelph apple transition study** Peter read out a request from the University of Guelph to do a study in Grey County. Peter wants to make sure the students talk to the Committee members. May be interviews. *Peter to keep the Committee posted.
13. **Brainstorming for ideas, issues** Peter going to put on the next meeting Agenda.
14. **Ont Soil and Crop Improvement Assoc. (OSCIA) Summer Tour** James mentioned this year's annual conference being held in The Blue Mountains and the Assoc's request to the Town for support.

Moved and Seconded. That the Committee supports the request for support from the Ont. Soil and Crop Improvement Assoc to the Town for the 2011 summer tour. CARRIED.

- 15. Coyote resolution, predator problem** Jacquie H brought forward a petition asking the Committee members to sign ; asking the Ont. Gov to minimize predator losses by implementing a province-wide Coyote Control Program that includes a \$200 bounty for each coyote carcass and allow counties to implement their own proof of kill collection system. *Peter to take to Council for support.
- 16. Review of house inspection fire prevention for bunk houses** John A brought up that the Town has a new fire prevention officer who is fairly aggressive. Like to support the fire prevention program. Might be good to invite the Fire Prevention officer to a future meeting for a better understanding of the program so the agricultural community will be able to work with the Town. *Peter to invite to a future meeting.
- 17. Review of burn permits for agriculture use** Would be good to discuss with the Fire Dept as well.
- 18. Georgian triangle Humane Society request for assistance** Peter read an email request from Ellen Anderson to think of ways to help with the problem facing the Humane Society. One of their biggest challenges will be finding homes for feral and semi feral cats that were in their possession in December. These animals are spayed or neutered but need a barn facility to provide some shelter until the weather improves.
- 19. Next Meeting** The Committee agreed we should meet on a regular basis; the first Tuesday of the month. Next meeting March 1 at 7:00pm , same location.
- 20. Adjournment.**