



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: January 18, 2017
Meeting Time: 2:30pm
Location: Town Hall, IPW & P&DS Meeting Room
Prepared by: Heather Drane, Clerk Receptionist, Infrastructure and Public Works

A. Call to Order

- **Present:** James McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Grant McMurchy, John Ardiel, Jim Farmilo, John McKean, Reg Russwurm and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Al Lockhart
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Moved by:** John Ardiel **Seconded by:** Jim Farmilo

THAT the Agenda dated January 18, 2017 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Previous Minutes**

Minutes are circulated and approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, using electronic mail. Minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting were included in the January 23, 2017 Council meeting.

B. Deputations, Presentations, Topics

B.1 Correspondence

B.1.1 Letter of December 22, 2016, to Kyle Oakley re: Clendenan Bridge Replacement authored by Reg Russwurm.

Reg Russwurm attended the meeting and spoke about the Clendenan Bridge and the 10th Line. Reg gave a brief history that lead up to the closing of the Clendenan Bridge to vehicular traffic. In July, 2011, the Clendenan Bridge was inspected and severe structural defects were found. The bridge was closed immediately to vehicular traffic and was still open for pedestrians and cyclists. Council considered an Environmental Assessment in 2011 and then decided not to go ahead with the EA due to the cost

involved and the bridge has been closed to vehicular use by emergency order ever since then.

In response to the Agricultural Advisory Committee deputation by Grant McMurchy on December 2016, regarding the Clendenan Bridge, Reg Russwurm prepared a capital budget for consideration. The proposal did not move ahead as part of the consideration for the 2017 Town budget as the estimated cost for an Environmental Assessment would be around \$80,000 and then almost a million dollars to repair if the EA approved.

John Ardiel noted there was a petition circulated opposing all the extra traffic from farm equipment going through Clarksburg with 10th Line Bridge closed. There has also been undue police attention by stopping the farmers driving the equipment and to determine safe and unsafe practices. Lots of traffic uses Grey Rd. 13 and Grey Rd. 2. John's concern is before long there will be no chances of ever having the 10th Line bridge open again. John presented a map showing the 10th Line and asking whether part of the 10th line can be fixed and asked if there was any thoughts on a by-pass for a long term solution.

John McKean noted to date that he is unaware that any petition has been circulated by anyone in the community and police presence was requested for speeding vehicles but is unaware of any requests regarding farm equipment. The County Road system is designed for heavy vehicles and can handle the extra traffic effectively. Under the Drinking Water Protection Plan a bridge across the water was not wanted nor a bridge that was in very close proximity to another bridge. If after an EA was completed, the bridge may not be wanted there at all, pedestrians and cyclist would not even have a bridge if that was the case.

Reg noted there was a MTO Road Needs Assessment done for Hwy 26 for a 4-5 lane by-pass from Stayner to Thornbury. Part of that was to by-pass Thornbury and come across the 11th Line.

Lynn asked what is going to go through for the Hwy 26 and Grey Rd. 2 intersection.

Reg noted the preferred solution for MTO is a set of lights. It would cost one million dollars more to construct a Roundabout.

Lynn requested some signage be put in place to Share the Road, in light of the increased traffic through town.

John McKean agreed that signage installed in Clarksburg and GR 13 would be a good idea.

Reg noted he will put in a request for signage.

Reg noted that Black Bridge on Clark Street, in Clarksburg will be closed in 2017 for rehabilitation work and traffic will be routed along the 10th and Edward Street. Reg circulated a package presenting the proposed work on Black Bridge. The Black Bridge is a Bow String Bridge and a designated Heritage structure making it important to maintain the esthetics of the bridge. A report will be going to Committee of the Whole at the end of January, 2017 to look at the options for railing design and what would conform best with modern times. Reg covered the three options for railing and the positive and

negative aspects of each scenario. Option 1 maintains the heritage aesthetics, but does not meet crash test standards, posing liability issues. Option 2 is steel railings, which may be considered as out of keeping with the bridges architectural look but keeps existing load rating. Option 3 keeps with aesthetics of a heritage structure, increases the load on bridge and load restrictions would be in place, but Town vehicles such as Fire Trucks and Snow Plows would be fine with the weight restrictions. Reg noted that Option 3 is the desired option.

John Ardiel asked when the Black Bridge last had work done and Reg noted it was 15 years ago.

Jim Farmilo asked when the Black Bridge work was scheduled for. Reg noted the new railing work would return the bridge to full rated load. The work process would go ahead by February with tendering beginning in March, awarded in April with the project starting in the summer of 2017 and re-opening of the Black Bridge in fall of 2017.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee expressed that a higher load restriction and less concern for aesthetics would be best for them, as functionality is the most important feature for the Agricultural Community to transport their produce and farm equipment.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee has recommended the following to Council:

Moved by: Jim Farmilo **Seconded by:** John Ardiel

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee request that functionality and carrying capacity be the number one consideration, by Council for Black's Bridge reconstruction, Carried.

Lynn Vail suggested a letter from the AGAC committee and the fruit growers, in support of functionality and capacity of Black Bridge and be circulated by February. James McKinlay will draft a letter of support and John Ardiel will be in touch with the fruit growers to submit a letter as well.

C. Adjournment

Moved by: Grant McMurchy **Seconded by:** Lynn Vail

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 3:25 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.