

Minutes: Agricultural Advisory Committee



MEETING DATE: October 4, 2011
LOCATION: Town Office – EPW Meeting Room
PREPARED BY: Adam McMullin, Engineering and Public Works

A. Call to Order

Present: James (Jim) Farmilo, James McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Rod Knott, Ron Marshall
Regrets: Al Lockhart, Lance Burnham, Grant McMurchy, Jacquie Hendry, John Ardiel, Sid Dykstra
Guests: Corrina Giles (Clerk), Lisa Kidd (Economic and Communications Coordinator)

Meeting commenced at 7:05.

B. New and Unfinished Business

Presenter – Corrina Giles

Corrina discussed 'fence viewers' and noted that the Town has an obligation to appoint fence viewers to act on requests from residents that have a dispute and cannot come to agreement regarding their property fencing. Three candidates are needed and applications are available. Corrina said that there is no obligation to apply. The applications are due on October 11th and Council will make their selection on October 12th. There are no viewings from November 1st to March 1st and the pay is \$18/hour plus mileage costs.

The previous fence viewers were Mike Atkins, Grant McMurchy and Alvin Wilson. The term is concurrent with the term of Council. Corrina noted that the Line Fences act serves as the guidelines for the fence viewing members

Action/highlight: Town Clerk requests application for fence viewers, application are due October 11th.

B.1 Municipal & Local Food Policy (Lisa Kidd & Adam McMullin)

Municipal Food Policy (Adam)

Adam discussed the idea of implementing a corporate local food policy that requires Town hosted events to incorporate locally sourced foods. He noted that The Sustainable Path identifies this as an action to enhance municipal support for local food. Adam referenced the municipal food policy from Collingwood, provided to the committee as an example.

James McKinlay noted that the Committee previously passed a motion supporting this type of initiative. Jim Farmilo said that this type of policy lacks visibility and needs to be highlighted within the community and local businesses. Jim said that he would circulate his comments to the rest of the committee.

Adam said that he would develop a policy specific to the Town and bring it back to the committee for approval.

Action/highlight: Jim to circulate comments regarding the local food policy to the rest of the committee and Adam to develop draft policy to review with committee.

Community Food Policy and Economic Development Initiatives (Lisa)

Lisa said that local food has been identified in the economic development strategy and is investigating the idea of a community-wide food policy. Lisa noted that there has been \$30,000 proposed in the economic development budget this year and that she wished to liaise with various groups to discuss potential economic development initiatives. Lisa asked the committee to consider entertaining a one-hour workshop with Lisa to brainstorm and discuss economic development initiatives. The goal of the process is to budget and price initiatives to bring forward to council.

Action/highlight: The committee passed the following resolution: recommend that Lisa attend the next committee meeting and conduct a workshop on potential economic development initiatives.

B.2 Budget Priority (Adam)

Adam noted that Staff proposed a budget enhancement report for the Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) in the amount of \$5,000 for the next three years for Council to consider. Lynn Vail asked if this money would come out of the economic development budget and Adam responded that if approved, there would be a separate budget dedicated to the EFP. James asked Adam if there is a way to streamline the process to move the EFP through the budget process. Adam indicated that the enhancement report is a good start. Committee inquired about the budget process, Adam said that he would investigate and report back to the committee.

Action/highlight: Staff proposed an Environmental Farm Plan budget for the next three years of \$5,000 per year. Adam to provide committee with an overview of the budget process.

B.3 Grant Application Opportunities (Adam)

Adam reviewed the Agri-Food Innovation Excellence award and wanted to pass along the information to the committee. James noted that the committee discussed the award and encouraged John Ardiel to apply, it was unknown if he did apply or was successful.

Action/highlight: Rod Knott to discuss last year's award with John Ardiel and report back to the committee.

B.4 Centurion Debriefing (Adam)

Adam asked the committee about the centurion race and any comments they may have. Rod Knott said he didn't hear any negative comments during race day but that the police are tightening down on cyclist. James felt the event was better organized and ran and there was a better effort to solicit feedback ahead of time. Committee members noted that the roads were very busy a month prior to the event. Concerns about the some of the cyclist poor behaviour were discussed.

Actions/highlight: none.

B.5 Farm Tour Follow-up (Adam)

Adam reviewed a spreadsheet with comments/questions that were raised during the farm tour held on Friday June 25, 2010. The major discussion surrounded the idea of a sequel or repeat of the farm tour. Adam noted that Staff responded positively to the tour and would investigate an additional tour in the future.

Action/highlight: Adam to investigate Staff interest in participating in another farm tour and report to committee.

B.6 Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee [BRWAC] (Adam)

Adam said that there is a relatively new committee that is focused on the Beaver River Watershed. This committee has some common interests with the AAC and there may be opportunities to work together. Adam noted that John Ardiel sits on both committees and that Adam acts as staff support for both, which will allow ideas to flow between the two. James mentioned that there may be opportunity for tree planting and work with the BRWAC committee, the key is that these activities must be coordinated.

Action/highlight: none.

B.7 New Business

Town's Pound Keeper

The committee reviewed the memorandum from Stephen Keast on behalf of Duncan McKinlay. James said that he spoke with Duncan regarding the incident of goats at-large and the lack of an appointed 'pound keeper' for the Town. Four options outlined in the memo were discussed. There was no conclusive recommendation.

Action/highlight: The committee requested that Adam work with Stephen to review and include another option, whereby no poundskeeper is appointed by the Town and report back to the committee.

C. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday November 1st, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

D. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.