

The Blue Mountains
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
October 6, 2010

Present: James McKinlay (Chair); Jacquie Hendry, John Ardiel, Jeff Wilson.

Staff: Peter Tollefsen; Peter McGee; Lisa Kidd

Guest: Richard Broadwith, BCI Marketing; Sean Kelly, Black Angus Meats.

6:00pm at Shawn and Leah Postma's place on the 10th Line to see solar panels.

James called the meeting to order at 7:30pm at Ravenna Hall .

1. Black Angus meat process facility

Lisa introduced Richard Broadwith and Sean Kelly (owner and operator of Black Angus Fine Meats & Game Inc) Black Angus offers specialty + local meats and is involved in a range of market and business development activities. This activity includes an application to OMAFRA for funding support for a \$524,380.00 facility and capability improvement initiative for the company under the Rural Economic Development funding support program. The investment includes additional cold storage facilities, specialist packaging and labeling equipment, an integrated management and traceability system and staff training and skills development program for current staff and 4 new hires in the near future.

There was a recent letter to Council asking for Town support of this initiative. Council referred the matter to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The Committee asked if Black Angus supports local beef. Black Angus indicated they sell local sheep and lamb but not beef. The Committee asked Black Angus to keep them apprised of their progress and use local meats when possible. James thanked the delegation and indicated that the Committee would reflect on their request, make a decision and get back to them.

2. Post Centurion bike event feedback

Peter McGee asked for the Committee's comments and observations from the event 2 weeks ago. No real problems. Without a hitch, cyclists very polite. Someone at the corner of County Rd 2 and Fire Hall intersection encountered a rather abrupt police woman. Keep it a 2 day event. Appalled on how fast some of the cars and trucks travelling on the bike route. Timing (date) of the Centurion event next year- Committee sees problems if it is in July. Keep it in September.

A discussion on the **Share the Road** campaign followed. It was suggested that cyclists should be single file on secondary roads. Concern on safety of the off shore workers was noted. John Ardiel volunteered to work with staff to enhance the safety program for the migrant workers here, through the possible reimplemention of safety vests. The Fruit Growers Association and the Farm Safety Association may be potential partners.

3. **Back to the Black Angus Beef request.** The Committee supported the initiative of Black Angus Beef and encouraged Council to write a letter of support to OMAFRA with the proviso that they make every effort to include products of The Blue Mountains and they return to the Committee in the future for an update.
4. **Update on the Real Dirt on Farming magazine** and the Committee's request for support from Council. Council voted to forward \$500. Which has been done to/for the magazine.
5. **Predator Problem** still a serious problem coyotes still killing a lot of local sheep, lambs. Local farmer currently has hardly any sheep left.
6. **Community policing** Rob Potter sends his regrets. Put this item on next meeting's agenda.
7. **Sustainability Banner** Jacquie – for the Sustainable Path unveiling Sept. 25 has no pictures of agriculture! Peter to bring to the attention of the Environmental Initiatives Division.
8. **Planning Regional Food Systems** Peter gave an update on a recent planning course taken as well as the local food theme of the upcoming planning conference in Guelph later in October.
9. **Provincial Policy Statement review** Province doing a 5 year review of this major policy document. It guides all local and county official plans. Town's comments were on a clearer and more flexible definition of agricultural related uses.
10. **Succession planning.** The Agricultural Advisory Committee ceases Nov 30, 2010 with the term of Council. All members existing and potential have to reapply. The Clerk will be posting a notice/ad in a November newspaper asking for citizens to submit names for all committees. James suggested that everyone submit names to Peter and he will distribute for recruitment purposes.
11. **Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.** The Committee recommended that we should submit John Ardiel's name. John will start filling out the application forms.
12. **Town's Landfill site** Layers of impervious clay required occasionally between layers of fill. Has not been done. Committee expressed a concern especially since the site was a former gravel pit and close to the Indian River.
13. **Next meeting at the call of the chair**
14. **Adjournment.**