



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: August 15, 2019 REVISED
Meeting Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
Prepared by Heather Drane, Clerk Receptionist, Infrastructure and Public Works

A. Call to Order

- **Present:** Duncan McKinlay, Rosemary Mesley, Ryan Gibbons, Andrea Matrosovs, Wayne Dewitt, John Ardiel, Grant McMurchy, Lynn Vail and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Nancy Griffin, James McKinlay
- **Approval of Agenda**

Recommended **Moved by:** Rosemary Mesley **Seconded by:** Lynn Vail

THAT the Agenda dated August 15, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Agricultural Advisory Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

- **Previous Minutes (July 18, 2019)**

Recommended Moved by: Grant McMurchy **Seconded by:** Duncan McKinlay

That the Minutes of July 18, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Agricultural Advisory Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters.

Marlene Lawrence from the 10th Line in Redwing thanked the AGAC members for the opportunity to speak and ask the following questions:

1. Why would this committee recommend to Town Council that they continue the road allowance spraying of the toxic pesticide Truvis, when the problem is no longer the road allowance but unmanaged wild chervil that is allowed to grow and go to seed on farmland and private property?
2. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowance when it is known that Truvis is toxic to aquatic organisms and most road allowances have ditches that drain into our local streams and rivers.
3. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances when Truvis can leach into ground waters and contaminate our wells.
4. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances when Truvis kills everything but grass. It kills trees, shrubs, wildflowers that feed our pollinators, and any other vegetation it comes in contact with, both on the surface and where it leaches into the ground and reaches the roots. It kills crops such as but not limited to peas, potatoes, soybeans, alfalfa, grapes, and vegetables. Remember it kills everything but grass.
5. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances, the spraying that poisons the space where I walk, where my children and grandchildren walk, where I walk my dog. In rural residential TBM, we don't have sidewalks.
6. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances when local farmers don't seem to care about the wild chervil where they're planting. I have a picture taken June 9, this year, on the 10th Line of a cultivated field right next to a huge strip of wild chervil. What reason is there to support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances when farmers cut and bale hay that is full of wild chervil gone to seed?
7. I respectfully ask that these questions be entered into the minutes of this meeting to be followed up on, with answers provided by the next meeting.

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Follow up regarding Wild Chervil – Wayne Dewitt (verbal)

Wayne Dewitt to follow up on question: Is there a resource available to define the area that can be sprayed for Wild Chervil?

Wayne noted there is no resource that has mapped the area. By-law responds to complaints of Wild Chervil (WC).

Lynn asked if the public is aware that they can register a complaint.

Rosemary inquired as to who sprays the roadside for Wild Chervil. Wayne mentioned that the Operations department takes care of spraying and cutting the roadside.

Rosemary suggested inviting someone from the Operations Dept. to come and talk to the AGAC members regarding the spraying of WC.

A complaint about WC on someone's property that affects agriculture can be registered with by-law and they can look after. Wayne noted if there is a complaint that WC is close enough to affect Agricultural land, steps taken are to issue an order against the property owner, this may be appealed to the chief weed inspector. The process can take up to 45 days to order the property owner to destroy the WC which can be done by alternatives to spraying for example cutting, boiling water method, and other nontoxic solutions.

John noted the agricultural community spends thousands of dollars to control WC and it is rampant, out of control. He didn't realize he could call and lodge a complaint.

Rosemary mentioned that tractors from Grey County were mowing roadside on the 12th Line. Andrea will look into this to find out more information.

Ryan will take the lead to invite someone from the Operations Department for the September meeting to talk about the current WC control methods. Ryan will take any questions and concerns and will follow up with Operations Staff and will also look into whether we have any contract with Grey to cut roadside for example the 12th SR. c

John noted that whether chemical or mechanical the Agricultural community is interested in action being taken to control WC before it goes to seed. Mowing spreads the seeds if cut too late.

Andrea noted she will email a link to Roads and Services Questions and Answers on the Website. Andrea mentioned she noticed there were no photos of WC to educate people on how to recognize the noxious weed and suggested there could also be a flow chart explaining what the process is for reporting, for example if WC is on private land, what does the person do, for roadside, etc. She invited all the AGAC members to read over these Q & A and submit all comments to Andrea.

John Ardiel noted that education is the key for people to realize just how much damage WC does. The public needs to know how to spot WC.

Rosemary wanted Knapweed to be added to the public education piece as well.

C.2 Follow up regarding Cycling Safety Group – Ryan Gibbons (verbal)

Ryan followed up with the Cycling Safety Group and they proposed to have their next meeting line up with the AGAC meeting on September 19, 2019 whereas the Cycling Safety Group would meet early afternoon to meet up with the AGAC meeting at 4:00p.m. Heather and Ryan will arrange this timing.

C.3 Follow up regarding share the road signage with map – Ryan Gibbons

Ryan provided maps of proposed signage locations. Some of the signs would be installed on Grey County roads and Grey County is interested in sign consistency. Ryan noted a budget will be created once the number of signs is established, purchase the signs and align with the County's process. The sign locations will be discussed at the Cycling Safety Group meeting in September for their input as well. Ryan noted baseline mapping will be discussed by the subcommittee and brought forward in the fall meeting to form a budget.

Ryan mention the main goal is to create a consistent message that everyone can share the road and to communicate this message to all, Simcoe, Grey, MTO, local public as well as visitors.

Andrea noted that visiting drivers pay extra attention to the paved roads in the community as they attract the cyclists.

Lynn mentioned that signs should be in place on roads that are busy farm areas, used by the agricultural community frequently.

John noted he looked over the map of proposed signs and locations and said locations are good.

Duncan noted he did not see any signs near the BM Village. Ryan will add changes to the map.

C.4 Correspondence

Resolution from July 15, 2019 Council meeting regarding the Township of Warwick enforcement for safety on family farms to the Agricultural Advisory Committee and to the Grey County Farm Safety Association for review and recommendation back to Council

The below resolution was passed at the July 15, 2019 Council meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of the June 17, 2019 Council resolution of the Township of Warwick regarding enforcement for safety on family farms:

AND THAT Council refer this resolution to The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee and to the Grey County Farm Safety Association for review and recommendation back to Council, Carried.

Andrea took this resolution to the GCFSA. The group did not do a formal response as it was discussed at other associations meetings and the other associations are compiling responses.

Recommended

Moved by: Grant McMurchy **Seconded by:** Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee (AGAC) recommend that the Town of The Blue Mountains Council endorse the motion, Carried.

D.1 New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Wayne Dewitt update on prevalence of Wild Parsnip

Wayne gave an update on Wild Parsnip noting that it is common in the same areas as Wild Chervil, there are very few complaints, by-law will cover the whole municipality. Wild Chervil is highlighted as it has had more complaints than Wild Parsnip and Knapp weed.

Duncan noted there are patches of Wild Parsnip (WP) to control as well. WP is an invasive species that causes burning if in contact. Eastern Ontario is wall to wall with WP and it's dangerous to walk in. Here it's isolated and could be controlled on roadsides where people walk or cyclists go. Ryan noted they need to determine where locations of WP are and control. He will contact James McKinlay for WP location information.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Land use planning information for farmers

Road signage maps discussion with Cycling Group

Letter from Dan Carter of the Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance.

D. Notice of Meeting Dates

The next AGAC meeting date will take place on September 19, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Town Hall.

E. Adjournment

Recommended

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay **Seconded by:** John Ardiel

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 7:10p.m. to meet again in one month on Thursday September 19, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.