

▪ **Previous Minutes (September 19, 2019)**

Moved by: Grant McMurchy

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Minutes of September 19, 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.

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

B.3.1 2020 to 2022 Budget Follow-up, FAF.19.213

Moved by: Lynn Vail

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report FAF.19.213 entitled "2020 to 2022 Budget Follow-up";

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee endorses the 2020 to 2022 budget as included as Attachment #1 for Council consideration during the 2020 budget deliberations, Carried.

Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Follow-up from Questions Posed during August 15, 2019 Public Comment Period regarding Truvist – Councillor Matrosovs

Note: At the August 15, 2019 Committee meeting, the following questions were posed to the Committee.

Questions from August 15, 2019 Committee meeting:

1. Why would this committee recommend to Town Council that they continue the road allowance spraying of the toxic pesticide Truvist, 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 Truvisit 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 Truvisit can leach into ground waters and contaminate our wells.

4. Why support the unnecessary spraying of the road allowances when Truvisit 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?

Councillor Matrosovs noted the questions posed correlate with the correspondence received as Item D.1 Marlene Lawrence, Resident Re: Truvisit Spraying of Wild Chervil. Councillor Matrosovs further noted she received information from Grey County Director of Transportation Pat Hoy regarding the rationale for spraying with Truvisit. Councillor Matrosovs shared with the Committee the December 2010 Wild Chervil Research Update literature which was developed by the University of Guelph in conjunction with weed inspectors. In relation to the research, it was noted Truvisit offers season-long protection from Wild Chervil while allowing native grasses to thrive. Councillor Matrosovs advised that Grey County confirmed Truvisit is handled and applied in accordance with the herbicide label guidelines. For the Committee's information, Councillor Matrosovs provided Health Canada's Registration Decision 2014-30 Aminocyclopyrachlor ("Truvisit"). Links to the noted materials will be provided on the Town's website with the Wild Chervil Frequently Asked Questions content.

Councillor Matrosovs cited work undertaken in Mississippi Mills to control prevalence of wild parsnip, further noting Truvisit was used to control the weed on properties where residents consented to its application. For property owners who did not consent, agreements were established between the Town and those landowners that the landowners would be responsible for managing the wild

parsnip. Councillor Matrosovs noted that with increased inspections, this method of managing Wild Chervil may be feasible.

Duncan McKinlay requested clarity regarding ½ life, leaching, and the LD50 specific to Truvist. Duncan further noted that historic lack of spraying in Town road allowances has resulted in the seeds being broadcast. The group discussed the need to consider truck and boom application versus portable pack on back application, and education about label interpretation. It was requested that a presentation by the Town's Truvist applicator be arranged.

C.2 Follow-up regarding Wild Chervil Question & Answer Resource – Councillor Matrosovs

Councillor Matrosovs directed the Committee to the Wild Chervil Frequently Asked Questions website content. The Committee reviewed the content and provided suggestions regarding content, including:

- Wild Chervil Frequently Asked Questions content should be more public-facing and easier to find on the website;
- Add a photograph of Wild Chervil;
- Link to December 2019 Wild Chervil Research Update;
- Link to Health Canada's Registration Decision 2014-30 Aminocyclopyrachlor ("Truvist");
- Add content regarding importance of early spraying;
- Clarify Wild Chervil growing earlier in the year, versus similar plants such as Queen Ann's Lace and Wild Carrot, which grow later in the year, and identify potential correlation with other vegetation that grow at similar times;
- Provide link to herbicide label, and interpretation of the same.

C.3 Planning Department

Re: Resources related to Agricultural Land Use Planning for Farmers

Note: included for Committee reference and resource are the following:

- Provincial Policy Statement s.2.3 Agriculture -
- Town's Official Plan s.B.4 Rural Countryside Designations
- Town's Zoning By-law Provisions pp. 53-57, and 82-85
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Permitted Use Guide (online) - <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/facts/permitteduseguide.pdf>
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Guidelines Overview (online) - <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/mds.htm#1>
- Government of Ontario Resource Applying for Changes to Land Use (online) - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/applying-changes-land-use>

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp introduced himself along with Manager of Community Planning Trevor Houghton. Nathan noted every property in The Blue Mountains is governed by numerous planning documents that work in tandem with the Provincial Policy Statement (“PPS”) and the Grey County Official Plan. Nathan explained the Town also has an Official Plan as well as a Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Nathan noted advanced planning review and consultation ensures land use alignment with planning documents and advances the objectives outlined in the Official Plan (“OP”) as they relate to agriculture. Nathan noted the importance of preserving agricultural land and recognized farmers as stewards of the resource. Nathan provided a brief overview of the resource materials distributed to Committee members. Nathan noted planning and acceptable uses are highly site-specific with various provincial legislation, such as Minimum Distance Separation calculations, further impacting the site-specific uses. Nathan advised the Committee that Planning Services has a strong and open consultation process to and a mandate to provide the best possible information to applicants.

John Ardiel noted the agricultural community feels threatened by the extent of development in The Blue Mountains and noted increased Minimum Distance Separation issues due to less stringent planning in the distant past. Nathan recognized that previous planning decisions, such as Farmer Retirement Lots, do provide constraints to some site-specific agricultural uses. However, Nathan noted Planning policies in The Blue Mountains are strong, with urban development focused between the escarpment and Georgian Bay. Nathan further noted when the OP is reviewed, scoped consultation with the agricultural community should form part of the process. By having the Agricultural Advisory Committee in place, staff has a sounding board and a stronger sense of community input.

John Ardiel questioned whether lands zoned Specialty Crop within Thornbury and Clarksburg will be considered for residential, or other forms, of development beyond their intended agricultural use. Nathan replied the PPS is strong related to Specialty Crop Land designations and restricts development on those lands unless there are no other alternative parcels. Nathan confirmed The Blue Mountains has a secondary growth area for Thornbury that is not built out.

Duncan McKinlay questioned if the Town’s planning documents cover On Farm Diversified Uses. Nathan confirmed the Town’s Comprehensive Zoning By-law and the Town’s OP cover On Farm Diversified Uses with a secondary resource being Ontario Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Permitted Uses Guideline.

The Committee discussed large plots of farm land being used for a residential dwelling, with the land potentially becoming fallowed. From that discussion, the following motion resulted:

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee requests staff to provide information regarding “field entrances” and consolidation severances, Carried.

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp and Manager of Community Planning Trevor Houghton left the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

C.4 Township of Warwick Enforcement for Safety on Family Farms Follow-up

Note: The following motion was passed at the September 30, 2019 Council meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation of August 15, 2019 recommending endorsement of the Township of Warwick June 17, 2019 motion;

AND THAT as recommended by The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains endorses the June 17, 2019 resolution of the Township of Warwick regarding enforcement for safety on family farms;

AND THAT Mayor Soever and Deputy Mayor Bartnicki request the Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to attend a future Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting, Carried.

C.5 Follow-up from September 19, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Meeting with Cyclist Group and Discussion regarding Bicycle Licensing Program

Note: the following motion was passed at the October 8, 2019 Transportation Committee meeting. The motion requires Council consideration **after** the Committee minutes are formally adopted at the November 12, 2019 Transportation Committee meeting.

THAT with respect to staff report FAF.19.205 Follow-up for the 2020 to 2022 Budget, the Transportation Committee recommend Council direct staff to collaborate with Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan staff to determine the feasibility of a bicycle licensing program for Town of The Blue Mountains, Carried.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Marlene Lawrence, Resident Re: Truvist Spraying of Wild Chervil

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives Correspondence Item D.1 Marlene Lawrence, Resident Re: Truvist Spraying of Wild Chervil for consideration, Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Chair's Report

Councillor Matrosovs advised the Committee of the Grey County Farm Safety Association dinner being held Tuesday, October 22, 2019. She provided an overview of the event's agenda and requested that any member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee who wishes to attend to advise.

Councillor Matrosovs noted the Farm Safety Association only has 28 members from The Blue Mountains and advised this participation level is low when compared to other municipalities. Committee members advised there are numerous organizations for the agricultural community to join, and many are already members of several associations simultaneously.

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed she attended a workshop regarding the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan during which time she brought into the dialogue much of the cycling conversation that Agricultural Advisory Committee has previously discussed.

Councillor Matrosovs referenced the September 30, 2019 deputation to Council by the Clarksburg Village Association regarding sidewalk maintenance and replacement in downtown Clarksburg. She noted that Grey County owns the Marsh Street right-of-way up to the curbs and questioned if the Committee would be interested in requesting Council to investigate a potential swap of a portion of 10th Line for Bruce Street and Marsh Street.

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommend Council initiate discussions with Grey County regarding a potential swap of the 10th Line from Matilda Street/Grey Road 13 to Highway 26, and Bruce and Marsh Streets from Clark Street to Highway 26, Carried.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Chair's Report (standing item)
- Information regarding "field entrances" and consolidation severances
- Ministry of Transportation Comments regarding Bicycle Licensing Program
- Responsibility of Cyclists regarding Road Rules
- Updated Grey County Project Schedule
- Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Association Deputation to Agricultural Advisory Committee

- Truvist
 - ½ life, LD50, and leaching clarification
 - Town’s policy regarding Trees and Shrubs located in Town or County right-of-way
 - Truck and boom application versus portable pack on back application
 - Truvist herbicide label interpretation
 - Presentation by Company applying Truvist
 - Follow-up regarding Wild Chervil Question and Answers material

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

November 21, 2019
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 6:34 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.