Minutes
Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 12, 2020
Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Councillor Andrea Matrosov called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with Committee members Rosemary Mesley, Grant McMurchy, John Ardiel, and Nancy Griffin present.

Town staff present were Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, and Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons.

- Traditional Territory Acknowledgement
- Committee Member Attendance

Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield confirmed that regrets were sent by Committee members Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, and Lynn Vail.

- Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John Ardiel  Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT the Agenda of February 12, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1.1 Slow Moving Vehicle Signs Update, 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 2019-56, Agricultural Advisory Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

- Previous Minutes (November 21, 2019)

Moved by: Grant McMurchy  Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Minutes of November 21, 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 2019-56, 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, or regarding matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

None

B.3 **Staff Reports, if any**

B.3.1 **Field Entrances Inquiry, CSOPS.20.001**

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report CSOPS.20.001, entitled “Field Entrance Inquiry” for information purposes, Carried.

C. **Matters for Discussion**

C.1 **Truvist Next Steps (verbal)**

Note: At the November 13, 2019 Council meeting, the following direction was provided:

THAT Council acknowledges receipt of the September 19, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation noted below:

THAT Council consider additional resources to implement the “Chervil” program portion of the Long Grass/Weed section of the pending Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw with a focus on education and co-operative compliance

AND THAT in response, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains resolves as follows:

THAT Council consider additional resources in the 2020 Budget process to implement the “Chervil” program portion of the Long Grass/Weed section of the pending Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw with a focus on education and co-operative compliance, Carried.
Councillor Matrosovs circulated a notice to Committee members regarding Mississippi Mills Wild Parsnip Weed Control & Options, which will be posted to the Town’s website. This handout provided an overview of roadside spraying, and the options for no spraying, as a method of cooperative compliance. Councillor Matrosovs requested that this material be considered at the upcoming March 4, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

Councillor Matrosovs further confirmed she will provide documents relating to the Mississippi Mills “Adopt-a-Road” program and Landowner Agreement to Committee members.

C.2 Proposed Bayou Cable Park – John Ardiel

John Ardiel noted he was provided comments by the Dykstras, who are property owners adjacent to the proposed Bayou Cable Park property. The comments indicate concerns regarding potential conflict of normal farming operations such as spraying, and the potential for trespassers on private lands. John requested information regarding how the Town is mitigating these concerns through the application review.

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp noted that the Planning Division has received Dykstras comments regarding the proposed Bayou Cable Park application, and confirmed Town staff is still completing its technical review. Nathan noted the Planning Act regulates the planning process, and advised that the proposed Bayou Cable Park property is classified as Urban Employment lands, and has site-specific Recreational zoning. Nathan explained if the Agricultural Advisory Committee submitted comments as a Committee, the Committee members are effectively bound by those comments, and the Council representative on the Committee would be put in a position of pre-confirming his or her opinion on the application.

Nathan advised that Planning staff can attend Committee meetings and share information with Committee members regarding applications, if requested. If Committee members wish to comment on specific applications, they can do so through the Planning Act framework as members of the public. Nathan noted this method ensures fairness and respect for the process.

Councillor Matrosovs questioned, more generally, if a new property owner moves in and the adjacent landowner has an established, common practice that the new property owner takes conflict with, how are the issues addressed? Nathan confirmed staff ask the question: who was there first? From there, consideration of existing conditions and review of the compatibility issue to find a solution is reviewed. This is a broadly used practice, for example: if there is an existing highway and someone proposes a residential development adjacent to the highway, the developer must mitigate the impacts on the highway, the highway does not have to mitigate the impacts of the residential development.
C.3  Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan Update

Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield advised that Bryan Plumstead of Grey County will be presenting the Cycling and Trails Master Plan to the Transportation Committee on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Following that, he will be presenting to a community group, Citizens Forum, on March 24, 2020. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted a Public Information Centre will also be held by Grey County staff, through a date has not yet been set.

Councillor Matrosovs noted if any members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are planning to attend the March 17, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting to receive the presentation, to email that intent to Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield. This will ensure the Agricultural Advisory Committee does not have a quorum at the Transportation Committee meeting. Sarah noted the presentation will be livestreamed which will enable Committee members to view the presentation remotely, either during, or following the meeting.

C.4  Responsibility of Cyclists with regard to Road Rules – John Ardiel (verbal)

John Ardiel noted the Town of Collingwood will be spending money to improve cycling infrastructure throughout its municipality and emphasized the need to ensure bicycles are licensed. John noted it is difficult to hold a cyclist accountable if he or she breaks the road rules, as there is no license plate or other identifying feature that can be reported to police.

C.5  Direction from Council regarding Feasibility of Bicycle Licensing Program

Note: At the November 13, 2019 Council meeting, the following direction was provided:

THAT Council acknowledges receipt of the September 19, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation noted below:

THAT Council direct staff to explore the feasibility of implementing a bicycle licensing program

AND THAT in response, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains resolves as follows:

THAT Council direct staff to include the feasibility of implementing a bicycle licensing system on a list of items to be included in a delegation to the Minister of Transportation at the next Rural Ontario Municipal Association ("ROMA") Conference, Carried.

Councillor Matrosovs noted bicycle licensing is an item that requires some provincial oversight. This is especially true because bicycles are being transported across jurisdictions. Because of this, it is difficult for one municipality to impose a licensing structure when other adjacent municipalities do not. Councillor Matrosovs confirmed she provided the Agricultural Advisory Committee's comments in the Town delegation to the Minister of Transportation’s staff at the ROMA Conference in January 2020.
Councillor Matrosovs noted the next step may be to see if the Ontario Provincial Police have any data on incidents with cyclists that can help supplement the request.

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons confirmed he will look into which other Ontario municipalities have bicycle licensing programs, and noted a main challenge with implementing this type of system is the transient nature of cycling, and the number of transient cyclists passing through the municipality.

C.6 Clendenan Bridge Update

Note: At the December 16, 2019 Council meeting, the following direction was provided:

THAT, as recommended at the October 17, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains directs staff to forward the within recommendation of the Agricultural Advisory Committee to the Economic Development Advisory Committee and to the Transportation Committee for consideration, and directs staff to 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.

Director of Operations Shawn Carey noted that the Town is reviewing the Clendenan Bridge and Corridor through the Transportation Master Plan exercise, further reporting that this is a primary focus of the Transportation Committee. Shawn further reported that the Town has successfully scheduled a Regional Transportation Meeting which will include Grey County and Simcoe County staff, local Ministers of Provincial Parliament, staff from the Ministry of Transportation, and staff and Heads of Council from neighbouring municipalities including: Town of Collingwood, Town of Wasaga Beach, Municipality of Meaford, Municipality of Grey Highlands, and Town of Clearview. Shawn added this meeting, which is intended as an internal staff meeting, will be a good place to initiate the Clendenan Corridor dialogue.

C.7 Tree Preservation By-law Update – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed the Town is hosting a joint open house with the County of Grey, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp advised Grey County is in the process of updating its Tree Preservation By-law so it is a good opportunity to coordinate efforts and offer information to the public. Nathan further confirmed the focus of the open house will be information on the Tree Preservation By-laws as they currently are written, and to receive feedback from the public regarding where the Tree Preservation By-laws should go. Nathan noted the open house will take place in early March 2020 but added the final date has not been confirmed.
John Ardiel suggested that many residents may be away in early March, and perhaps it would be beneficial to explore a later date in March 2020. Nathan added that along with the open house, there will be a survey and information circulated digitally to facilitate additional participation.

Councillor Matrosovs noted a sub-committee of the Sustainability Advisory Committee has been tasked with researching and strategizing best practice for the long-term management/preservation of the tree canopy. Councillor Matrosovs added if any members of the public are interested in assisting, the next sub-committee meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

C.8 **Consideration of a Chair to be appointed April 2020 for an eighteen-month Term**

Councillor Matrosovs noted that she was appointed to Chair the Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings for a period of one year which expires in April 2020. Councillor Matrosovs asked Committee members to consider who the next Chair of the Committee should be, as it will be discussed at the March 19, 2020 meeting. Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield noted the next Chair term will be for a period of eighteen months.

C.9 **Chair’s Report – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)**

Councillor Matrosovs noted that Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Association, will be presenting to the Agricultural Advisory Committee soon, and confirmed the date is being finalized.

C.10 **Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking**

- Council consideration of potential land swap
- Truvist
- Grey County Road Project Schedule
- Cyclist and Bicycle Licensing Program
- Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Association Deputation to Agricultural Advisory Committee

D. **Correspondence**

D.1 **Glen Harris, Resident**

Re: Clendenan Footbridge

Moved by: Nancy Griffin Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Correspondence Item D.1 Glen Harris, Resident Re: Clendenan Footbridge for information purposes, Carried.
E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Slow Moving Vehicle Signs Update

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons advised the Committee he has reached out to Ministry of Transportation and confirmed the Ontario Provincial Police does not actively enforce slow moving vehicle signs on mail posts, and fences however, if a complaint is received, the Ontario Provincial Police will respond. Ryan advised he will circulate the local detachment and non-emergency numbers to members and speak to Ontario Provincial Police staff to see if there is any opportunity for more active enforcement.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Appointment of a Committee Chair for a term of eighteen months
- Feedback regarding Mississippi Mills Noxious Weed Program and “Co-Operative Compliance”
- 150th Fall Fair and Recognition of Long-Term Farm Ownership – John Ardiel
- Education regarding Normal Farming Practices, perhaps a Seminar or Open House – Nancy Griffin

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

March 4, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel          Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 6:50 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.