



Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 4, 2020
Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Councillor Matrosovs called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with Committee members Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Duncan McKinlay, and James McKinlay present.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons and Director of Operations Shawn Carey. Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

- **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**

- **Committee Member Attendance**

Executive Assistant Committees of Council confirmed that regrets were sent by Committee members John Ardiel, Nancy Griffin, and Grant McMurchy.

- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agenda of March 4, 2020 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 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 (February 12, 2020)**

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Minutes of February 12, 2020 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 matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Review of Mississippi Mills Noxious Weed Program and “Co-Operative Compliance” – Councillor Matrosovs

Note: included for information within the package is an excerpt from Mississippi Mills website regarding Wild Parsnip weed control and options.

[Link to Mississippi Mills No Spray \(Opt Out\) Agreement](#)

[Link to Mississippi Mills “Adopt a Road” Program](#)

The Committee reviewed the Mississippi Mills No Spray (Opt Out) Agreement. Councillor Matrosovs noted she has contacted Mississippi Mills staff who indicated the project was initiated in 2017. In 2018, 88 lane kilometers (both sides of the road) were covered to manage Wild Parsnip (“WP”), out of which, 30 landowners agreed to manage the WP on their own through the Opt Out program. In 2019, 488 lane kilometers were covered to manage WP, out of which, 200 landowners agreed to manage the WP on their own through the Opt Out program. Mississippi Mills staff have noticed a decrease in WP, however, are cognizant that it is a biannual plant so the decrease may be a result of its natural lifecycle.

Director of Operations Shawn Carey confirmed staff have set up a call with Mississippi Mills staff to explore its program and consider if a similar program could be used to manage Wild Chervil (“WC”) in the Town of The Blue Mountains. Shawn further noted a presentation by the Truvisit applicator and product representative is scheduled for the March 19, 2020 Committee meeting.

Duncan McKinlay noted the need to mobilize on WC mitigation measures at the right time of the year and questioned if there is enough time in 2020 to implement a program similar to Mississippi Mills.

Duncan further questioned how the Town will manage its liability if an Opt Out program is implemented, and explained there will be dangers to the travelling public or land owners in the Opt Out program completing WC maintenance within the road allowance. Further, Duncan questioned the mechanisms that could be put in place in case the methodologies used by private landowners in the Opt Out program are not effective in managing WC. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted the County of Grey has an “Adopt a Road” program, and the Town is in the process of developing a Volunteer Policy which might be relevant to landowners who opt out of the Town’s WC spraying. Through the Volunteer Policy a training program could be considered to ensure landowners who opt out are trained to be in the Town road allowance performing the WC mitigation measures.

Rosemary Mesley questioned the way in which the Town assesses its WC spraying practices, and the effectiveness of the program. Shawn Carey confirmed staff will bring information to the upcoming March 19, 2020 meeting to address this inquiry.

Duncan questioned how the Town can ensure that other normal road maintenance activities in the road allowance, such as dead limb cutting, are able to continue if the Opt Out program is in place. Shawn Carey confirmed if an Opt Out program was implemented, the agreement between the Town and the landowner would need to be prescriptive to ensure the landowner is only responsible for managing the WC, with the Town completing all other maintenance works within the road allowance. Duncan noted it might be in the Committee’s interests to recommend to Council a one-year Opt Out pilot program for select properties in The Blue Mountains, with the effectiveness of the program monitored and reported on, pending additional information from staff’s discussions with Mississippi Mills.

C.2 Slow Moving Vehicle Sign Enforcement – Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons (verbal)

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons confirmed he contacted The Blue Mountains’ Detachment Sargent regarding this matter. Enforcement of incorrectly installed slow moving vehicle signs (i.e. on mailboxes, fences) can be done, provided it is a Ministry-approved sign. If members of the public see incorrectly installed Slow Moving Vehicle signs, they can be reported to the police. Ryan confirmed he has advised the Town’s By-law staff as well; if By-law staff see signs installed incorrectly, they will try to make contact with the property owner to advise and educate. Further, a letter is being developed that can be provided to property owners who have signs that are incorrectly installed. Councillor Matrosovs offered to provide this information to the Grey County Farm Safety Association as well.

C.3 Review of Municipalities with Bicycle Licensing Programs – Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons (verbal)

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted there are few municipalities that have implemented a bicycle licensing program, except in the case where the program is enacted to recover lost/stolen bicycles. Councillor Matrosovs advised that the City of Kingston used to have a licensing program and may still. Ryan confirmed he will look into this and follow-up with the Committee if additional information is available.

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed she met as a delegate with Ministry of Transportation Officials through the ROMA Conference to express The Blue Mountains' request for a bicycle licensing program. Councillor Matrosovs further noted the revenue generated from a province-wide licensing program could be used to enhance trails and bicycle infrastructure in Ontario's communities.

C.4 Opportunity for Education regarding Normal Farming Practices – Nancy Griffin

Councillor Matrosovs noted Nancy Griffin wanted to bring to the forefront the discussion regarding opportunities for educating newcomers to the area about normal farming practices. Duncan noted there are other agencies with resources and information that the Committee could link to its webpage. James McKinlay clarified this is under the Mandate of Farm and Food Care. Councillor Matrosovs requested this item be added to the March 19, 2020 Committee Agenda and advised Council is hoping to schedule a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs if the Committee's budget can accommodate.

C.5 Tree Preservation By-law Update – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs advised the Committee that the Joint Open House regarding the Tree Preservation By-law is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2020. Participating agencies and municipalities include Town of The Blue Mountains, County of Grey, Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. Councillor Matrosovs confirmed the Joint Open House will be a come and go style without a formal presentation, but will be an opportunity for the agencies and municipalities to provide information regarding the existing and proposed Tree Preservation By-laws, to educate the public regarding the Tree Preservation By-laws, and to receive feedback and comments from the public. There will be an online component for any individuals unable to attend the Open House in person, and attendees are able to provide their addresses to staff to understand which organizations they should contact if they wish to engage in tree cutting activity. Rosemary Mesley commented the Joint Open House could also be an opportunity to convey to the public the importance of planting native Ontario species as a way of managing noxious weeds.

Duncan McKinlay noted it would be helpful to have on display at the Joint Open House the purpose of the Town and County's Tree Preservation By-laws, in addition to the goals for the revised by-laws.

Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

C.6 Chair's Report – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs reminded the Committee that a new Chair will be appointed at the March 19, 2020 meeting.

C.7 Agricultural Advisory Committee Composition

Note: at the February 10, 2020 Council meeting the following direction was provided:

THAT Council request that the Agricultural Advisory Committee provide input to Council regarding the mandate of the Committee moving forward, including the option to move to a Community Committee that includes The Blue Mountains staff representation or to continue status quo as a Committee of Council, Carried.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT, in response to Council's February 10, 2020 direction, the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommend continuing status quo as a Committee of Council

Ardiel, John	absent
Griffin, Nancy	absent
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	Yay
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay

The motion is Carried.

Duncan McKinlay called a point of order, questioning when it became a requirement for recorded votes at the Committee level. Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield noted Council recently passed an updated Procedural By-law which requires recorded votes. Sarah further clarified that Council has subsequently passed a motion indicating that recorded votes are not required for procedural matters, for example: passing of agendas, minutes, etc. Committee of Council members received the revised Procedural By-law and Sarah will provide material to Committee members detailing the main changes between the previous Procedural By-law 2018-20 and the updated Procedural By-law 2019-56. Councillor Matrosovs added that recorded votes ensure transparency, accessibility, openness, and clarity.

C.8 Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking

- **Council consideration of potential land swap**
- **Truvist and Co-Operative Compliance Review, including effectiveness monitoring of current Wild Chervil spraying**
- **Grey County Road Project Schedule**

A map was provided to Committee members as a resource outlining the 2020 Grey County work plan. It was noted that two County roads in The Blue Mountains are scheduled for resurfacing in 2020. Duncan McKinlay noted there was a prior commitment by Grey County to pave shoulders on certain County roads in the municipality. The Committee requested the multi-year Grey County construction details, and confirmation regarding paved shoulders for the two projects in 2020 for the March 19, 2020 meeting.

Rosemary Mesley questioned if the road reconstruction mapping was related to the plans in the current Grey County Draft Cycling and Trails Master Plan to install bicycle lanes or paved shoulders on County roads. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted he can follow up with the Grey County Director of Transportation on this matter.

Regarding the Cycling and Trails Master Plan, staff confirmed that Grey County has rescheduled its Public Information Centre to March 12, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Grey County Administration Building. Rosemary Mesley confirmed Bryan Plumstead of Grey County will be making a presentation at the Citizens Forum meeting on March 24, 2020. Executive Assistant Committees of Council confirmed Bryan Plumstead will also attend the March 17, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting to provide the Committee with an overview of the Plan. Sarah noted interested Committee members can watch via the livestream, attend in person, or review the archived recording following the March 17 meeting. Sarah requested that Committee members advise her if they would like to attend the March 17, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting to ensure a quorum of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is not achieved.

- **Cyclist and Bicycle Licensing Program**
- **Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Association Deputation to Agricultural Advisory Committee**

D. Correspondence

D.1 Alex Maxwell, Resident

Re: Roads/Winter Maintenance and Carbon Sequestration

Note: This correspondence was received by the Sustainability Advisory Committee at its February 12, 2020 meeting and referred to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Correspondence item D.1 Alex Maxwell, Resident Re: Roads/Winter Maintenance and Carbon Sequestration for information purposes

Ardiel, John	absent
Griffin, Nancy	absent
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	Yay
McMurphy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay

The motion is Carried.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommend that the Committee be used as a resource in drafting the operating guidelines for implementation of any windbreak tree planting program in relation to roads

Ardiel, John	absent
Griffin, Nancy	absent
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	Yay
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay

The motion is Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- **Wild Chervil Spraying Program Monitoring and Effectiveness**
- **Opportunity for Education regarding Normal Farming Practices**
- **Appointment of a Chair for Eighteen Months**
- **Grey County Road Project Schedule, Multi-Year Work Plan, and Paved Shoulders**
- **Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan Update**
- **Procedural By-law Changes Overview**

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

March 19, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 7:28 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.