



Committee Report

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: November 21, 2019
Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

Agricultural Advisory Committee Recommendations

NOTE: The following are recommendations from the Agricultural Advisory Committee to be considered for adoption by Council

- [Receive Minutes \(November 21 2019\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes dated November 21, 2019 as attached, for information purposes.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: November 21, 2019
Meeting Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Chair Councillor Matrosovs called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with Committee members Lynn Vail, Rosemary Mesley, Grant McMurchy, Nancy Griffin, James McKinlay, and John Ardiel present.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons and Manager of Community Planning Trevor Houghton.

Regrets were sent by Committee member Duncan McKinlay.

▪ Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT the Agenda of November 21, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1.1 Tree By-law Update, and Item E.1.2 Slow Moving Vehicle Signs, 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 (October 17, 2019)

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Minutes of October 17, 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.

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Truvist Follow-up – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

- **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**
- **Follow-up regarding Wild Chervil Question and Answers material**

Councillor Matrosovs advised the Operations Department provided information regarding trees and shrubs in the Town right-of-way. Councillor Matrosovs explained the Operations Department has equipment to cut brush back on road allowances to ensure visibility, increase safety, and reduce the debris in ditches. Typically, this practice is undertaken in the fall, and allows more sunlight in to right-of-ways, which can effectively reduce the spring road restriction period. Councillor Matrosovs noted the next step for this initiative is to contact an arborist to ensure this form of maintenance is not negatively impacting the health of trees in the road allowance.

Councillor Matrosovs further confirmed she is in contact with Grey County staff regarding potential alternate Truvist application methods and is also contacting Operations Director Shawn Carey to discuss education, enforcement, alternate program methods for Truvist, modelled similarly to the Mississippi Mills Wild Parsnip program. Councillor Matrosovs noted by January 2020, the Committee should have more information to be able to make a meaningful recommendation to Council regarding Truvist. James McKinlay requested the discussion include Giant Hogweed and Wild Parsnip and be focused around cooperative mitigation methods that are property-owner based.

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed the Bayer Product Sheet for Truvist cites rain fast at 4-hour application.

C.2 Planning Department
Re: Consolidation Severances

At the October 17, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee requested the following:

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

Information on “field entrances” will be provided at a later date from the Operations Department.

Manager of Community Planning Trevor Houghton advised that he undertook a review of the current and draft Provincial Policy Statements, as well as the Town’s and Grey County’s Official Plan documents, confirming consolidations are normally only reviewed by Planning staff if the applicant has a parcel he or she wishes to sever. From the Town’s Official Plan, Trevor noted it is an objective to prohibit further fragmentation of good agricultural lands and encourage consolidation of farming parcels to improve efficiencies and productivity where possible.

C.3 Responsibility of Cyclists regarding Road Rules – John Ardiel (verbal)

John Ardiel advised he is pulling some information together for the Committee, and asked the matter be deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons advised there are personnel with Ministry of Transportation and the Ontario Provincial Police who may be able to provide clarity.

C.4 Chair’s Report – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs noted she is attending “A Year in Review”, an event jointly hosted by Blue Mountain Village Association, Blue Mountain Ratepayers Association, and Citizen’s Forum, in order to discuss Council’s first year in office. Councillor Matrosovs noted one of the questions that may be asked is “what can the community do to support the agricultural industry?”. Councillor Matrosovs noted she is interested in hearing the Committee’s feedback.

Key Committee themes were: stewardship of the land and the role community members and farmers/producers play, appreciation off “share the road” and normal farming practices, education regarding normal farming practices, the economic impact of agriculture, quality and quantity of food in The Blue Mountains, signage alerting residents and visitors in areas of agriculture to “expect delays”, the need to value agriculture and its integral role in a healthy community, and to gather the data on defined rural areas, land holding, and production information.

C.5 Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking

- **“Field Entrances” and Consolidation Severances**
- **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 Sustainability Advisory Committee Re: Three (3) Pillars of Sustainability

Moved by: Lynn Vail

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives Item D.1 Sustainability Advisory Committee Re: Three (3) Pillars of Sustainability for information purposes, Carried.

D.2 Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner Re: Addendum dated November 8, 2019 in response to Memorandum dated July 20, 2019 and Addendum dated July 31, 2019

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: James McKinlay

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives Item D.2 Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner Re: Addendum dated November 8, 2019 in response to Memorandum dated July 20, 2019 and Addendum dated July 31, 2019 for information purposes, Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Tree By-law Update

Committee member Grant McMurchy advised of several community member questions regarding the proposed Tree Canopy By-law that was reviewed by Committee of the Whole on November 18, 2019. Grant requested clarity regarding how much wood can be cut for firewood/heating purposes, and pointed out if someone's primary source of home heating is firewood, 20 face cords annually may be insufficient. Grant requested confirmation that fence row clean up and riverbank maintenance will still be permitted under the proposed by-law, and questioned the price of a tree cutting permit, if instated.

Councillor Matrosovs noted the proposed by-law will apply to properties between ½ and 1 hectare, and beyond that, the Grey County Tree By-law applies. Manager of Community Planning Trevor Houghton noted if the by-law is enacted, farming operations would be exempt. He cautioned an exception is tree cutting activities in designated hazard or sensitive lands. Trevor advised that Council will explore potential permitting costs through the 2020 budget process.

E.1.2 Slow Moving Vehicle Signs

John Ardiel requested clarity regarding enforcement of slow moving vehicle sign use, and noted he sees the signage installed to mark mailboxes and driveways. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons will confirm if enforcement is by-law or MTO.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Practice of cutting brush in ROW and impact on tree health
- Truvis Program and Presentation by Applicator
- Field Entrances
- Responsibility of Cyclists regarding Road Rules
- “Welcome” package
- Slow Moving Vehicle Signage – By-law or MTO enforced?
- Tree By-law Update (standing item)
- Communication and Education (standing item) including “Welcome Packages”
- Clendenan Bridge Update

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

The Committee noted the December 2019 meeting is cancelled and the Committee will resume meeting in January 2020.

January 16, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 6:35 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.