



Committee Report

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: June 18, 2020
Meeting Time: 6:00 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 \(March 4, 2020\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes dated June 18, 2020 as attached, for information purposes.



Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: June 18, 2020
Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. with Committee members John Ardiel, Nancy Griffin, Duncan McKinlay and Rosemary Mesley present. Mayor Alar Soever was also present.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, and Supervisor of By-law Services Wayne DeWitt.

Regrets were sent by Committee members James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy and Lynn Vail.

- **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
- **Committee Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Nancy Griffin

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agenda of June 18, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1.1100th Anniversary Congratulations to Ardiel Family

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

The motion is 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 (March 4, 2020)**

Moved by: Nancy Griffin

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Minutes of March 4, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made

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

The motion is Carried.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations

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.

NOTE: The Blue Mountains Town Hall is currently closed to the public to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Executive Assistant.

B.2.1 Marlene Lawrence, 415895 10th Line

Ms. Lawrence provided comments regarding Item C.1 2020 Wild Chervil Program Recap. It was noted that a video clip and several images accompany Ms. Lawrence's public comments, which were provided to the Committee members. The written portion of Ms. Lawrence's comments are being provided as part of the Public Comment Period. Ms. Lawrence noted the opportunity was missed this year to stop the spraying of Truvist with a truck and boom. Ms. Lawrence noted there is a large amount of wild chervil throughout the Town, but very little on the road allowances. Using a truck and boom on the road allowance is inefficient and unnecessary. Ms. Lawrence pointed out the boom is unwieldy for one plant with the boom being in violation of application protocols. Ms. Lawrence provided an example of one wild chervil plant in the road allowance that cannot be reached by the boom because of a hydro pole. Ms. Lawrence commented on her hope that Committee members are aware of the toxicity of the chemicals in Truvist, but noted if spraying is required, a portable backpack sprayer should be utilized. Ms. Lawrence noted a backpack sprayer will not deal with the source of wild chervil spread, which is coming from private property. Ms. Lawrence noted the Ontario Weed Act gives the Town weed inspectors the responsibility to enforce removal of wild chervil from Town lands, but until last week, this had not been done. The vast amount of wild chervil is going to seed and in some cases, the hay filled with wild chervil is being cut and will be transported down the road to other locations, spreading seeds along the way, which is a violation of clauses 19 and 20 of the Ontario Weed Act. Ms. Lawrence requested the Committee to recommend the Town stop spraying wild chervil with a truck and boom, and instead cut the few plants on the road allowance prior to going to seed, or, if spraying is required, recommend the use of a portable backpack type sprayer to manage wild chervil. Ms. Lawrence also requested the Town's weed inspectors to enforce the Ontario Weed Act, and any bylaws the Town manages to pass. Ms. Lawrence emphasized there are other options to control the wild chervil on the road allowance and the Town must stop spraying of the road allowance with a truck and boom.

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 2020 Wild Chervil Program Recap – Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell (verbal)

Director of Operations Shawn Carey advised a formal report on the 2020 Wild Chervil program will be provided at an upcoming Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting. In the interim, the Committee reviewed a map detailing the locations of "no spray" signage in The Blue Mountains. Shawn noted 28 property owners requested the "no spray" signage. Supervisor of By-law Services Wayne DeWitt noted most wild chervil is not on the Town right-of-way but on private property. Wayne further advised the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer visited eight properties and noted no orders were issued.

C.2 Long Grass By-law Update – Manager of Enforcement Services Wayne DeWitt (verbal)

Supervisor of By-law Services Wayne DeWitt advised the revised Property Standards By-law is progressing well, but remains in draft form and has been delayed due to COVID-19. Wayne noted the proposed by-law does not prevent farms from carrying out normal farming practices. Wayne confirmed that once the draft Property Standards By-law is passed, the Long Grass and Weeds By-law can be put in effect for the entire municipality.

Councillor Matrosovs indicated her belief that there is harm to adjacent lands and property when a property owner does not manage wild chervil on his or her private lands. John Ardiel similarly noted that equipment can assist in the spread of wild chervil. He further commented that Ardiel Farms has strict operating procedures so that farm equipment is swept and cleaned down prior to moving between orchards so that seeds cannot spread. John recommended the Town adopt a similar practice for equipment to avoid unnecessary spread of wild chervil.

The Committee noted there is wild chervil along County road allowances and adjacent to bridges. Private property enforcement should be prioritized as well. John commented that the video clip accompanying Ms. Lawrence's Public Comment does show the truck and boom provided erratic spraying and a side saddle configuration with a hose may be more effective in managing the wild chervil in the Town road allowance. Nancy Griffin commented there is a need to educate landowners and communicate with property owners to effectively deal with wild chervil.

Duncan McKinlay noted historically the Town and the County have not managed wild chervil effectively and questioned if the Town required landowners who requested "no spray" signs to manage the wild chervil in the road allowance fronting their properties. Shawn Carey confirmed this expectation was communicated to property owners who picked up "no spray" signs and noted a more formalized shared stewardship agreement could be considered in the future.

Rosemary Mesley noted education to property owners has been enhanced and noted that the truck and boom application is overkill for managing wild chervil in the Town right-of-way. Rosemary pointed out significant wild chervil at several locations in Clarksburg and along the Beaver River. Councillor Matrosovs advised of a small patch adjacent to the Trestle Bridge.

The Committee questioned Grey County's approach to wild chervil management. Shawn Carey advised Grey County has adopted a reactive approach to wild chervil management and encouraged Committee members to advise the County of any wild chervil on County right-of-ways. Mayor Soever advised he will address the matter with the Grey County Warden, and at the upcoming Grey County Council meeting, and noted Grey County has established an Agricultural Advisory Committee that can review the wild chervil program. Shawn Carey further noted that Grey County is developing interactive mapping for the purposes of invasive species tracking which will be of assistance in developing a historic profile of wild chervil.

C.3 Tree Preservation By-law Update – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs noted a joint open house was planned for spring 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19. Mayor Soever noted a report is coming to Council June 29, 2020 regarding virtual participation for public meetings.

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

Councillor Matrosovs noted several guests will attend the August 20, 2020 meeting to contribute to the wild chervil discussion. This is also the date that Shawn Carey will provide a detailed follow-up report on wild chervil.

C.5 Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking

- **Council consideration of potential land swap**
- **Truvist and Co-Operative Compliance Review, and detailed analysis of wild chervil (Report by Shawn Carey August 20, 2020)**
- **Hugh Simpson, Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Mr. Cowan, Ministry, guests for August 20, 2020 wild chervil discussion**
- **Grey County Road Project Schedule**
- **Cyclist and Bicycle Licensing Program**
- **Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Association Deputation to Agricultural Advisory Committee**

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 100th Anniversary Congratulations to Ardiel Family

Mayor Soever and Councillor Matrosovs offered their congratulations to John Ardiel, and the Ardiel Family on their 100th anniversary of farming. John Ardiel expressed his thanks to all who have expressed their well wishes.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- **Alternative Models for Managing Wild Chervil**
- **Update regarding Bayou Cable Park Planning Application**
- **Windbreak Program**

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

August 20, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 7:45 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair

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

The motion is Carried.