



Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 15, 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 6:07 p.m. with Committee members John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Rosemary Mesley, Dennis Ouellette, and Lynn Vail present.

Town staff present were Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White and Director of Operations Shawn Carey. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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

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

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agenda of October 15, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda

Ardiel, John	Yay
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Ouellette, Dennis	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
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.

▪ **Previous Minutes (September 17, 2020)**

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs requested the minutes be revised on page 4, paragraph 2 from “Councillor Matrosovs questioned the best way for members...”, to “Councillor Matrosovs inquired as to the best way for members...”.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay vacated the meeting briefly at 6:12 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

Moved by: Dennis Ouellette

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Minutes of September 17, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made

Ardiel, John	Yay
McKinlay, Duncan	absent at time of vote
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Ouellette, Dennis	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations

B.1.1 Mike Cowbrough, Weed Specialist (Field Crops), Chief Inspector (Weed Control Act), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs Re: Wild Chervil Questions from Committee

Councillor Matrosovs welcomed Mike Cowbrough, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (“OMAFRA”). Mike confirmed he will answer the Committee questions verbally and follow-up with a written submission to formalize his comments.

Mike noted he has been with OMAFRA since 2002 addressing weed management for field crops and working with the *Weed Control Act*. Mike noted that 10 years ago Grey County approached OMAFRA to review wild chervil management along roadways. OMAFRA partnered with the University of Guelph to pilot a wild chervil screening trial and reviewed various herbicides to determine the best control method for wild chervil. It was determined through that study and subsequent data validation that Truvist

worked best. Mike noted the work could potentially be revisited as there are several newer products and options.

With regard to non-chemical control of wild chervil, Mike noted there are challenges with this as it is a noxious weed. However, the most successful strategy to cut wild chervil is at the stage when the plant is ending flowering and seed capsules are starting to form; the plant thinks it has produced seeds, but it will not grow back. This timing is typically early May. Mike noted for enforcement, it is easier to ask a property owner to cut the plant at this stage if the land is vacant, but a conflict exists when the land is used for forage production. Mike further noted it is important to mitigate the weed's potential to move seeds. The *Weed Control Act* provides measures for enforcement and prohibits movement of noxious weeds, though the practicality of enforcement can be challenging.

Committee member John Ardiel noted it is difficult for enforcement staff to catch when people are harvesting and potential crop movement is underway. He noted previously that purple loosestrife used to pose a problem as a noxious weed, but the issue was resolved and questioned if the same could happen with wild chervil. Later in the discussion, Mike commented that purple loosestrife is managed by a beetle, but because wild chervil is a member of the carrot family, it is unlikely that approval for a biological agent would be approved as the larvae would feed on carrots. John also pointed out that Town road maintenance activities could spread seeds. It was noted education for property owners and municipal operators is the best option. Regular sanitizing of road maintenance equipment might be a standard operating procedure that could mitigate some seed spread.

Mike commented that an education piece was sent to property owners by OMAFRA some years ago. He noted that the focus was on identifying the species and why it is a noxious weed. More education could have focused on practical wild chervil management practices. Mike offered his assistance to the Town if Town staff identify a need to create a wild chervil education piece for property owners.

Committee member Rosemary Mesley provided the scenario of a landowner who is not farming the land, but has wild chervil, with an adjacent cropper having seeds spread onto his or her land. Rosemary requested clarification on how to address this type of occurrence. Mike confirmed the landowner with wild chervil is in violation of the *Weed Control Act*. Enforcement through the weed inspector can be sought. Mike pointed out that the weed inspector can also provide a level of education to the landowner who is in contravention of the Act, and offer suggestions on management. Should the landowner not address the wild chervil, the Town can retain a third party contractor to address the wild chervil.

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons joined the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs introduced Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White who is the Town's newly appointed weed inspector. Councillor Matrosovs requested clarification on how the Town and property owners can mitigate seed travel via watercourses. Mike noted the Town should identify areas that are likely causing seed spread and then provide enforcement. Mike noted OMAFRA could assist with this exercise if requested.

Director of Operations Shawn Carey confirmed the Town has been successful in managing wild chervil in the Town right-of-way using broadcast spraying. The current issue seems to be wild chervil on private property, and to address this, a mixed strategy likely needs to be employed which includes public education and enforcement.

The Committee requested clarification regarding whether Mike would recommend reducing or stopping the Town's roadside spraying program and changing the application method. Mike noted the broadcast spraying whittles down a population that is overwhelming, then, when managed, other methods can be used to deal with the remaining population. Mike noted the legislation is flexible to allow municipalities to interpret the Act as passively or aggressively as desired.

Regarding training, Mike confirmed there is an annual weed inspector meeting, and certification training is also available.

Mike confirmed the *Weed Control Act* provides allowance for municipalities to pass legislation that classifies a plant as a noxious weed. This allowance provides equal power and priority of the Act and the local By-law.

Committee member Rosemary Mesley noted there was wild chervil at the walkway near the Clarksburg Bridge. Rosemary enquired as to whether this plot would be a good one to trial methods for managing wild chervil. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons confirmed he will discuss with the Town's Manager of Parks and Trails and follow-up. Director of Operations Shawn Carey confirmed the Town has detailed mapping for areas where "Do Not Spray" signs were placed. It is presumed that these populations were managed through cutting, and the effectiveness of this method can be monitored.

The Committee thanked Mike for the discussion and noted they look forward to ongoing collaboration between OMAFRA and the Town.

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: Committee meetings are currently taking place virtually 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.

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Memorandum, Wild Chervil Management on Private Property and Follow-up to Q&A from Tom Cowan, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks – Director of Operations Shawn Carey

Director of Operations Shawn Carey reviewed the memorandum.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay posed the following question: If a weed inspector issues an order and the order is not followed, can a municipality hire a contractor to spray Truvis on the property? Staff replied that they will pose the question to Mike Cowbrough, OMAFRA. Duncan further noted the Town should request that our newly appointed weed inspector be coached by Mike Cowbrough.

Committee member Dennis Ouellette requested clarification on how long the order to address wild chervil specifies before the Town will intervene.

The Committee will send scenarios to Executive Assistant Sarah Merrifield who will then pass the same on to Mike Cowbrough for review and response.

Shawn Carey noted the Committee needs to consider where the Town should focus its efforts, whether it's in the agricultural area or in Town, etc. Shawn noted there are resourcing issues that need to be considered.

Moved by: Dennis Ouellette

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives Item C.1 and, with respect to Item B.1.1, the Committee thanks Mike Cowbrough, OMAFRA for his input regarding wild chervil and his offer to continue work with Town staff

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

The motion is Carried.

C.2 Comments from Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding Bayou Cable Park Planning Application for Town Planning Staff and Consideration by Town Council (verbal)

NOTE: at the September 17, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting, the following motion was passed:

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee notifies Council that they wish to provide comments on the Bayou Cable Park application regarding traffic issues at Highway 26/Grey Road 2/Clark St and on the issue of adequate buffering to protect legal uses on adjacent lands, CARRIED.

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs read the September 17, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee motion, as noted above. Councillor Matrosovs noted her proposal to defer discussion of Item C.2 to the November 2020 meeting due a forthcoming opinion from the Town's Integrity Commissioner.

Committee member John Ardiel commented that the members were selected to the Committee because of their participation in the agricultural arena, and noted it is confusing that the Committee should defer the discussion. John requested clarification on whether the Committee will be given an opportunity to put forward a recommendation and comments regarding the subject application, Councillor Matrosovs replying she is not privileged to the discussion between staff and the Town's Integrity Commissioner.

Director of Operations Shawn Carey noted the Integrity Commissioner will provide some opinion as to exactly what a Committee member versus a member of the public can do and noted there is no intent to stymie the Committee.

John Ardiel noted the time constraint should be relieved until the Integrity Commissioner gives her opinion as the Committee needs more time to provide comment to Council.

Councillor Matrosovs clarified that as a member of Council, she should not come to Council with a predisposed opinion of the application, Committee member Duncan McKinlay replying that if Councillor Matrosovs feels there is a conflict, she should have someone act as Chair in her stead for the discussion.

Committee member Rosemary Mesley noted her opinion to defer the item until the Integrity Commissioner opinion is available, John Ardiel replying that deferral of comments may have implications on the timing of the application. Councillor Matrosovs noted written comments can still be provided by members of the public and in speaking with planning staff, deferral of the matter until the November 2020 meeting will not cut off members from making comment.

Committee member John Ardiel emphasized that the Agricultural Advisory Committee needs to be notified immediately by staff if the file comes forward with progress.

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley

Seconded by: Dennis Ouellette

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee defers Item C.2 Comments from Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding Bayou Cable Park Planning Application for Town Planning Staff and Consideration by Town Council to the next regularly scheduled Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting

Ardiel, John	Nay
McKinlay, Duncan	Nay
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Ouellette, Dennis	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Nay

The motion is Lost.

Councillor Matrosovs vacated the meeting at 7:44 p.m. declaring a conflict.

Committee members Rosemary Mesley and Dennis Ouellette vacated the meeting at 7:45 p.m. declaring a conflict.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay called a point of order, and noted a Chair must be declared prior to continuing discussion.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee appoints Lynn Vail as temporary Chair to address Item C.2 on the agenda

Ardiel, John	Yay
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	absent due to declared conflict
Ouellette, Dennis	absent due to declared conflict
Vail, Lynn	Nay
Matrosovs, Andrea	absent due to declared conflict

The motion is Carried.

Committee member Lynn Vail clarified that she voted “Nay” because she was not at the September 17, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting to have all relevant information, and she felt there should be a better showing of members tonight to discuss the matter.

Committee member John Ardiel noted it is ludicrous that members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee were asked to be on the Committee but told it's a conflict to provide comment on the planning application. John questioned the purpose of the Committee. Committee member Duncan McKinlay noted his frustration.

Executive Assistant Sarah Merrifield confirmed that Council will review the September 17, 2020 motion regarding the Bayou Cable Park in early November 2020. Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted staff will follow-up with Planning Services. It was noted a Special Meeting of the Committee can be called within 24-hours to address time-sensitive matters.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

WHEREAS the Agricultural Advisory Committee wishes to provide Council with timely, community-based advice on a broad range of matters affecting agriculture;

NOW THEREFORE the Agricultural Advisory Committee confirms its September 17, 2020 motion regarding the Bayou Cable Park and requests Council to provide clear guidance on how the Committee may best serve Council with respect to Planning Act matters;

AND FURTHER, that this matter be directed to Council with the September 17, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes

Ardiel, John	Yay
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurchy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	absent due to declared conflict
Ouellette, Dennis	absent due to declared conflict
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	absent due to declared conflict

The motion is Carried.

C.3 Transportation Master Plan Update – Committee member John Ardiel (standing item)

Committee members Rosemary Mesley and Dennis Ouellette rejoined the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Councillor Matrosovs rejoined the meeting at 8:11 p.m. and resumed Chair.

Committee member John Ardiel noted there is a meeting between Town and County staff to discuss control of Marsh, Matilda, and Bruce Streets and a potential road swap.

Regarding the Transportation Master Plan, Director of Operations Shawn Carey confirmed a Request for Proposal award is expected mid-November 2020. Shawn confirmed that the successful proponent will be engaging with the Agricultural Advisory Committee as needed. A Transportation Master Plan Project Coordinator was retained on a two-year contract basis to develop the Plan.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay noted Grey County has a plan from 2010 that has good information about realignment of regional roads and tax equity implications that should be reviewed as part of the process.

C.4 Tree Preservation By-law Update – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs noted it is now possible to conduct public meetings virtually, and staff are currently awaiting response from Grey County and Niagara Escarpment Commission regarding a date for the open house. In the interim, staff are gathering background information on the tree portfolio. Staff are also currently reviewing Green Belt Foundation funding opportunities related to tree inventory work.

C.5 Chair’s Report – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

National Farmers Union Convention (virtual) November 26-28, 2020 with free webinars throughout the month of November.

FCM Conference and Workshops scheduled for end of October 2020.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting is being held virtually.

Committee member Rosemary Mesley requested clarification on strip planting versus pearl necklace planting of cedar trees. John Ardiel noted he has noticed a number of cedar trees dying off, particularly in windbreaks. Councillor Matrosovs noted she will pass this feedback on to the Conservation Authorities and provide John’s contact details so he can provide location details. Duncan requested clarification on whether the County is planning work on urban/suburban/recreational landscape trees.

C.6 Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking

- **Council consideration of potential road swap**
- **Truist and Co-Operative Compliance Review**
- **Cyclist and Bicycle Licensing Program**

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- **Bill 156 and OPP Enforcement of the Same, as it relates to Potential Animal Rights Demonstrations and Potential Harassment of Legal Hunters**
 - It was noted the regulations associated with Bill 156 have not been passed. This item will be tracked, but not brought forward to the Committee until Regulations are available
- **Wild Chervil Management Trial Enquiry**
- **Follow-up regarding Council Direction for Agricultural Advisory Committee interest in the Bayou Cable Park application**
- **Grey County Tree Preservation By-law Activities**

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

November 19, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 8:42 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair

Ardiel, John	Yay
McKinlay, Duncan	Yay
McKinlay, James	absent
McMurphy, Grant	absent
Mesley, Rosemary	Yay
Ouellette, Dennis	Yay
Vail, Lynn	Yay
Matrosovs, Andrea	Yay
The motion is Carried.	