



# Minutes

## The Blue Mountains, Agricultural Advisory Committee

**Date:** September 14, 2023  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting  
32 Mill Street, Thornbury ON  
**Prepared By:** Carrie Fairley, Executive Assistant to Committees of Council

**Members Present:** Duncan McKinlay, Randy McLeod, Lynn Vail, Taylor Knott, Councillor Ardiel, Councillor Alex Maxwell

**Members Absent:** Gerbe Botden

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### A. Call to Order

#### A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement and Moment of Reflection

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

#### A.2 Committee Member Attendance

Councillor Ardiel called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Executive Assistant Carrie Fairley took member attendance noting all members in attendance except for Gerbe Botden who sends his regrets and Randy McLeod.

Member McLeod joined the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Town staff present were Director of Planning Adam Smith and Manager of Planning Shawn Postma.

#### A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Alex Maxwell  
Seconded by: Taylor Knott

THAT the Agenda of September 14, 2023, be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda.

Yay (5): Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Taylor Knott, Councillor Alex Maxwell, and Councillor Gail Ardiel

Absent (2): Gerbe Botden, and Randy McLeod

**The motion is Carried (5 to 0)**

**A.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2022-76, Council or Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

**A.5 Previous Minutes**

Moved by: Lynn Vail

Seconded by: Councillor Alex Maxwell

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee minutes of June 29, 2023, be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (5): Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Taylor Knott, Councillor Alex Maxwell, and Councillor Gail Ardiel

Absent (2): Gerbe Botden, and Randy McLeod

**The motion is Carried (5 to 0)**

**B. Staff Reports and Deputations**

None

**C. Public Comment Period**

None

**D. Matters for Discussion**

**D.1 Status Update on Overall Official Plan project, Where We Are Now and Next Steps**

Manager of Planning, Shawn Postma provided an overview of his presentation regarding the agricultural policies contained in the Official Plan and background papers that staff are working on.

Shawn noted that all rules are set under the Planning Act, set out by the province. He further noted that under the Planning Act is also the Provincial Policy Statement, which is currently under review and are waiting for the latest draft and the Provincial Policy Statement from 2020 is still in effect. Shawn noted that that Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Grey Official Plan, which also applies to our area are the different layers of planning framework for this area. Shawn noted that the Official Plan is used for guiding zoning bylaws, site plan bylaws and other bylaws in the Town.

Shawn noted the completion of phase one was last fall and they are looking to bring the Official Plan into conformity with the upper tier planning documents. He noted that the last time the Plan was updated and approved was in 2016 and since there is a new Niagara Escarpment Plan, new Provincial Policy Statement, new Grey County Plan who all made minor and major changes, so it is important that we bring our plan into conformity with them, which is a requirement under the Planning Act.

Shawn provided the committee with background information on what studies and research have been completed last year.

Shawn noted that the draft Official Plan Amendments are still draft and was not adopted by Council in the fall and are waiting for phase two to catch up to look at it holistically.

Shawn spoke providing more information to the Committee members about the background of the Agricultural and Rural Lands paper.

The Members discussed different businesses that can be conducted on agricultural lands. Seeking clarity on how to differentiate what people are doing on their lands and if they are operating within the bylaws.

Member McKinlay requested more background information from Mr. Postma on a question of scope that staff is looking for advice on, so the committee can bring a recommendation to Council. Member McKinlay noting that the meeting could tackle a topic each meeting.

Shawn requested the committee focus on the list of agricultural resources, lot creation, and zoning by-laws as it relates to the agricultural industry and requested the committee to provide their feedback in those areas to staff.

## **D.2 Agricultural and Rural Background Paper Review and Discussion**

## **D.3 Feedback from Committee regarding the Agricultural and Rural Background Paper**

## **D.4 Educational Signage in Agricultural Areas**

The Committee discussed the need for educational signage in the rural areas, specifically to educate visitors about the importance of farming and trespassing on farmland as well as travelling the roads with farm equipment. The Committee discussed what neighbouring municipalities are doing in this regard.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee request Council to allow the Agricultural Committee to work with the Communications department to develop educational signage in the agricultural areas, including agricultural related share the road signs

Yay (6): Duncan McKinlay, Randy McLeod, Lynn Vail, Taylor Knott, Councillor Alex Maxwell, and Councillor Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Gerbe Botden

**The motion is Carried (6 to 0)**

**D.5 Tree Preservation By-law**

**E. Correspondence**

None

**F. New and Unfinished Business**

**F.1 Additions to Agenda**

**F.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

Educational Signage update

**G. Notice of Meeting Dates**

To Be Canvassed by the Executive Assistant.

**H. Adjournment**

Moved by: Councillor Alex Maxwell

Seconded by: Taylor Knott

THAT this Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting does now adjourn at 8:02 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (6): Duncan McKinlay, Randy McLeod, Lynn Vail, Taylor Knott, Councillor Alex Maxwell, and Councillor Gail Ardiel

Absent (1): Gerbe Botden

**The motion is Carried (6 to 0)**