



# Committee Report

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## Agricultural Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** February 18, 2021  
**Meeting Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall, Council Chambers  
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

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### Agricultural Advisory Committee Recommendations

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

- [Receive Minutes \(February 18, 2021\)](#)

**Recommended** (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes dated February 18, 2021 as attached, for information purposes.

### **C Matters for Discussion**

#### **C.4 [Heritage Apple Variety Nursery](#)**

**Recommended** (Move, second)

THAT in accordance with the February 18, 2021 recommendation from the Agricultural Advisory Committee as noted:

THAT with respect to a heritage apple variety nursery, the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives the request for information and recommends that Council direct staff to coordinate with Georgian Bay Fruit Growers with regards to project feasibility, CARRIED.

Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains directs staff to coordinate with Georgian Bay Fruit Growers regarding project feasibility for a Heritage Apple Variety Nursery.



# Minutes

## The Blue Mountains, Agricultural Advisory Committee

**Date:** February 18, 2021 REVISED  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting  
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON  
**Prepared by:**  
Corrina Giles, Town Clerk, and Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant  
Committees of Council

**Members Present:** Councillor Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, Elora Tarlo  
**Staff Present:** Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Director of Legal Services Will Thomson, By-law Supervisor Wayne DeWitt, By-law Enforcement Officer Raymond White, and Town Clerk Corrina Giles

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### A. Call to Order

#### A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

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

All members present

#### A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agenda of February 18, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (9): Councillor Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, and Elora Tarlo

**The motion is Carried**

**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 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

**A.5 Previous Minutes**

Moved by: James McKinlay  
Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Minutes of January 21, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (9): Councillor Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, and Elora Tarlo

**The motion is 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 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**

None

**C. Matters for Discussion**

**C.1 Trespassing as it relates to food safety, security and liability - Director of Legal Services Will Thomson, Committee members Rosemary Mesley and Dennis Ouellette**

- Ontario Federation of Agriculture article "Trespass problems? Tips on how to deal with Trespassing" (provided by Rosemary Mesley)
- *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020*
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture article "Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act"

Director of Legal Services Will Thomson spoke regarding the *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* which arises from trespassing issues on private farm properties and potentially interfering with the transport and processing of livestock. Will explained that the *Act* replaced the *Trespass to Property Act* and places more onerous penalties on those trespassing onto farm property, specifically "Animal Protection Zones". Farmers can define these "Animal Protection Zones" which prohibits individuals for entering. For clarification purposes, the *Trespass to Property Act* does still remain in force and effect for trespassing in other circumstances.

Committee member Dennis Ouellette requested clarity regarding whether the legislation also includes orchards and cash cropping properties. Councillor Matrosovs noted that the legislation is relevant to lands under cultivation and orchards.

With respect to regulations, Ontario Regulation 701/20 has been developed. Will committed to confirming whether the regulations are currently in force.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay enquired whether there is onus on the average member of the public to be aware of trespassing laws and what does, versus does not, constitute trespassing. Will noted that a property does not need to be signed for trespassing to occur.

Councillor Matrosovs noted that often these issues are not simple matters of trespassing and pointed out that often, people feel entitled to explore an apple orchard however, this constitutes a hazard as there are checks and balances that define who may enter an orchard to assist with food safety.

## **C.2 Responsibility of "Livestock at Large without supervision"**

NOTE: Council provided the following direction at the January 27, 2021 meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the November 19, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation as noted below:

THAT with respect to Item C.4 Livestock Escapes Discussion and Role of Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council provide resources to the Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding the issue of "livestock at large without supervision" with the goal of exploring education and coordinated responses, CARRIED.

AND THAT Council approves the request for resources for the Committee regarding the issue of "livestock at large without supervision" and forwards this matter to By-law staff for review with the Committee with the goal of exploring education and coordinated response, CARRIED.

Will Thomson noted that the Ontario Provincial Police is the response body for livestock at large, and further explained that the *Pounds Act* allows for pounds keepers however, The Blue Mountains does not have designated pounds keepers. The Committee reviewed an advisory note circulated by the Grey County Cattlemans' Association as developed by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay noted that though there is no pound keeper, any property owner can impound animals at large and advise the Town Clerk. Will noted that he will confirm and follow-up. Duncan questioned if the municipality or province assumes some liability for impounded animals if a private property owner has taken them in, or whether the private property owner is liable. Will further noted that the Act speaks to the liability of the animal, but noted he will have to do some follow-up.

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives the material circulated with respect to livestock at large without supervision, and trespassing for further review at a subsequent Committee meeting.

Yay (9): Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, and Elora Tarlo

**The motion is Carried (9 to 0)**

Director of Legal Services Will Thomson and Town Clerk Corrina Giles left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

### **C.3 2021 Wild Chervil Update - Director of Operations Shawn Carey (verbal)**

Director of Operations Shawn Carey referenced a letter that was circulated to the Committee regarding outreach and education for private property owners where it is believed there is wild chervil. It was requested that Committee members send any individuals comments or feedback to By-law Supervisor Wayne DeWitt. Shawn further noted that the Town's approach to use "spot spraying" is proving challenging as local contractors are advising they do not have the capacity for this method of wild chervil mitigation. Shawn confirmed he will provide further updates as available.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay questioned whether the Town could work with university students to pilot a research program that relies on technology to mitigate wild chervil. Committee members John Ardiel, Grant McMurchy, and James McKinlay offered contacts for programs that use drones to spot spray horticultural crops. Committee member Dennis Ouellette enquired whether spraying can be conducted in house. Shawn noted that the licensing and resources required for in-house spraying, but further evaluation in the future could be warranted. James noted that a demonstration site for wild chervil management would still be a good idea if possible.

### **C.4 Heritage Apple Variety Nursery**

NOTE: linked for information is [The Blue Mountains Tree Trust Deputation - How the Town Can Support the Tree Trust](#)

Council provided the following direction at the December 14, 2020 meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the December 1, 2020 deputation of Betty Muise of "The Blue Mountains Tree Trust" regarding "The Blue Mountains Tree Trust - How The Town Can Support";

AND THAT Council direct staff, with the support of Councillor Matrosovs as the Council lead on tree preservation, to provide a report in response to the requests contained in Ms. Muise deputation material for Council consideration by the end of the first quarter of 2021;

AND THAT Council refer this deputation to the Agricultural Advisory Committee to provide advice regarding a heritage apple variety nursery in The Blue Mountains, CARRIED.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay  
Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT with respect to a heritage apple variety nursery, the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives the request for information and recommends that Council direct staff to coordinate with Georgian Bay Fruit Growers with regards to project feasibility.

Yay (9): Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, and Elora Tarlo

**The motion is Carried (9 to 0)**

**C.5 Parking Update - By-law Supervisor Wayne DeWitt**

By-law Supervisor Wayne DeWitt noted the Parking By-law has been revised as a result of increased use of recreational areas due to COVID-19. This has led to a number of “no parking” areas throughout the Town. Wayne noted key challenges of the revised parking legislation is that the community appears split 50/50 for/against and installation of signage is prohibitive. Director of Operations Shawn Carey noted a multi-jurisdictional and pronged approach to parking management is required. Wayne noted that if parking issues are reported, by-law staff will respond.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay enquired whether the Niagara Escarpment Commission has been contacted for Metcalfe Rock parking area, Shawn replying that a permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission is not required. Wayne further noted that there is a recommendation for parking fines to increase to further dissuade individuals from parking in “no parking” areas. Wayne noted he will confirm that parking ticket prices are posted to the Town’s website.

By-law Supervisor left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

**C.6 Bayou Cable Park Update**

Councillor Matrosovs read the motion included below.

NOTE: Council provided the following direction at the January 27, 2021 meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of the November 19, 2020 Committee recommendation regarding the Proposed Bayou Cable Park as follows:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee requests the Committee’s comments regarding the Bayou Cable Park, as revised and detailed in the Committee memorandum dated November 19, 2020, be provided to Council for information and provided to the Town Clerk and Planning and Development Services Department for

consideration and inclusion in the staff report that is a follow-up to the Public Meeting, CARRIED.

AND THAT Council receives the comments as noted in the memorandum linked to this report for information and provides the same to the Town Clerk and the Planning and Development Services Department for consideration and inclusion in the staff report that is a follow-up to the Public Meeting;

AND THAT the Planning and Development Services Department will notify the Agricultural Advisory Committee immediately, through the Executive Assistant Committees of Council, of any further staff reports regarding this development, CARRIED.

**C.7 Transportation Committee Update - Committee member John Ardiel**

Committee member John Ardiel confirmed that the Committee met February 16, 2021 to review the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan and noted that County roads' original Mandate is to move goods and services efficiently. It was disappointing to hear that there would not be an agricultural representative on the working groups that are being developed to support cycling. John further confirmed that the Committee will receive a presentation from Stantec regarding the Transportation Master Plan.

**C.8 Chair's Report (standing item) - Councillor Matrosovs**

- Tree Preservation By-law Update

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed March 24, 2021 is the date for the Tree Preservation By-law Open House.

**D. Correspondence**

None

**E. New and Unfinished Business**

**E.1 Additions to Agenda**

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

- Trespassing as it relates to food safety, security and "livestock at large"
- Wild Chervil
- Tree Preservation By-law Open House
- Road Swap Update
- Follow-up from OMAFRA regarding Nitrous Oxide
- Status of Appointment to Grey County Agricultural Committee



## **F. Notice of Meeting Dates**

March 18, 2021

Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtual)

## **G. Adjournment**

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 7:50 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (9): Andrea Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette, and Elora Tarlo

**The motion is Carried (9 to 0)**