



Committee Report

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 17, 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 \(September 17, 2020\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes dated September 17, 2020 as attached, for information purposes.

C. Matters for Discussion

C.3 [Bayou Cable Park Update \(Not a Statutory Meeting – for information purposes only\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of the Agricultural Advisory Committee's September 17, 2020 recommendation, being:

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.

AND WHEREAS the Agricultural Advisory Committee met October 15, 2020 and passed the following subsequent recommendation, being:

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, CARRIED.

NOW THEREFORE Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains provides the following:

- For guidance regarding how the Committee may respond to *Planning Act* matters, Committees of Council are directed to the October 6, 2020 Integrity Commissioner Opinion, as reviewed at the October 27, 2020 Special Meeting of Council;
- Council reminds Committee of Council members that the Town's Integrity Commissioner can be contacted by members with any questions regarding potential conflicts of interest.

D. Correspondence

**D.2 [Krista Hulshof, Vice President, Ontario Barn Preservation](#)
[Re: Conserving Barns of Cultural Heritage Significance in Ontario](#)**

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT WHEREAS the Agricultural Advisory Committee passed the following motion at its September 17, 2020 meeting:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives correspondence item D.2 Krista Hulshof, Vice President, Ontario Barn Preservation Re: Conserving Barns of Cultural Heritage Significance in Ontario and advises Council to thank the Ontario Barn Preservation for their letter and further that the Committee does not recommend any action from Council on the letter, CARRIED.

NOW THEREFORE Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains requests staff to thank the Ontario Barn Preservation for their letter and advise the Ontario Barn Preservation that no action will be taken in the Town of The Blue Mountains with respect to heritage barns.



Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 17, 2020 REVISED
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 6:05 p.m. with Committee members John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, and Dennis Ouellette present. Deputy Mayor Rob Potter was also present to provide an update on the RABIT Task Force.

Town staff present were Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, and Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore.

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

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agenda of September 17, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item E.1.1 Bill 156 Effect to Livestock Owners and OPP Enforcement and Item E.1.2 Bill 156 Effect on Legal Hunters and OPP Enforcement

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

Quorum was momentarily lost between 6:11 p.m. and 6:12 p.m. when Committee member John Ardiel lost his meeting connection. During this time the meeting ceased. When John rejoined the meeting at 6:12 p.m. the meeting was able to resume.

▪ **Previous Minutes (August 20, 2020)**

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Minutes of August 20, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made

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

None

B.3 Staff Reports, if any

None

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Introduction of Dennis Ouellette, Agricultural Advisory Committee Member

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs welcomed newly appointed Committee member Dennis Ouellette. Dennis noted he is a retired Studio Director living in rural Town of The Blue Mountains. Dennis noted in his former role as a Studio Director he completed agricultural research and worked on agricultural programming. Dennis noted he previously volunteered at a dairy farm for two and a half years. Dennis confirmed his interest in agricultural matters and his excitement in being selected as a Committee member.

C.2 Memorandum, 2021 to 2023 Budgets – Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore

Director of Operations Shawn Carey reviewed the Memorandum, 2021 to 2023 Budgets and requested any direction from the Committee about items they would like included in the draft 2021 budget. Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore advised that Council has directed a 0% tax rate increase for the 2021 draft budget but noted that if the Committee has a specific addition, the request can be made and determined by Council.

The Committee discussed the subject of ditching work and ash tree removal, which Shawn Carey confirmed will be completed by a sub-contractor.

Committee member John Ardiel noted that items such as ash tree removal and ditching benefit the rural area, but are not specific to agriculture. John suggested that perhaps the Town should consider offering reasonable interest rates for tile drainage loans, as this type of program would be agriculture specific. Sam Dinsmore confirmed the interest rate for tile drainage loans is set by the Province, and if the Committee wishes to advocate for lower interest rates, the Committee Chair and Mayor Alar Soever could consider writing to the Province.

Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets Sam Dinsmore left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

C.3 Bayou Cable Park Update (Not a Statutory Meeting – for information purposes only) – Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp

NOTE: Accompanying the verbal update is staff report PDS.18.64 Wakeboard and Waterski Cable Park – Information Report, which was provided to Council June 4, 2018

Director of Planning and Development Nathan Westendorp noted the Bayou Cable Park (former Cedar Run Horse Park) has applied for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to permit for two (2) ponds for cable wakeboarding.

Nathan advised the Committee that Town and County staff are conducting a technical and policy review of the application. Nathan noted there are a number of engineering matters and public comments that are being considered by the Town and the applicant. Nathan advised that Town staff have not completed their review and have not come to a conclusion on whether or not the application can be supported, or requires further refinement, or could be refused. Town staff will bring a report to Town Council for consideration once the review process is completed.

Councillor Matrosovs inquired as to the best way for members of the public to provide questions or written comments regarding the application. Nathan clarified that the time for oral submissions before Council has passed because the Public Meeting was scheduled in late 2019. However, written comments can be provided to the Town Clerk who will ensure the submission is entered into the record, provided to Town Council, Senior Management Team, and planning staff.

Committee member Grant McMurchy commented that surrounding farms are concerned about operational impact of practices such as crop spraying and questioned if those comments have been received by the Town. Nathan advised that he does not have the list of individuals who have written in but emphasized that any comments by the public should be submitted to the Town Clerk.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay questioned whether the current design includes suitable buffers to protect normal farming practices and adjacent commercial uses. Nathan commented that some buffers are included but noted everyone's opinion regarding how much buffer is enough is subjective. Nathan explained the Town is looking at the Site Plan and zoning use and confirmed these comments were raised during the Public Meeting discussion. Nathan noted staff take their cues from the Official Plan and Zoning By-law. Duncan questioned whether an Emergency Services demand has been factored in. Nathan noted Grey County, who is responsible for provision of Emergency Services, is involved in the planning review process.

Duncan further commented that the 2018 staff report references an Environmental Assessment and potential realignment of Clark Street. Duncan noted there are existing traffic concerns at the Clark Street/Grey Road 2 intersection that could worsen if the site is in use. Duncan recommended that developer contribution and development charges be used to assist in addressing traffic deficiencies. Nathan confirmed that traffic is under review and there is currently some work already completed on the Grey Road 2/Highway 26 intersection. Nathan noted the Committee feedback and questions received should be provided in writing to the Town Clerk. Nathan noted the realignment of Clark Street is under review.

Committee member John Ardiel noted he does not recall this matter being brought to the Committee previously. Nathan clarified that he previously spoke with the Committee about this application, but the Public Meeting is legislated and goes before Town Council. If the Committee has questions for the developer, that is at the Committee's discretion, but there is nothing in the legislative process that requires planning applications to be provided to a Committee. John noted he strongly disagrees with this and that these matters should be referred to the Committee.

John questioned the jurisdiction that allows for Specialty Crop Land designations to be removed. Nathan confirmed the lands in question are not designated Specialty Crop Land; this designation was removed years ago, and the lands are classified as Urban Employment Lands. Nathan advised a Specialty Crop Land designation is determined by the Province of Ontario.

John questioned if the lands are potentially zoned for residential and condos. Nathan advised he is unaware of any potential residential proposal for the lands. Nathan confirmed this type of application would require an Official Plan review. Duncan questioned if the former Cedar Run Horse Park received an amendment to the Industrial Lands designation to allow for condos along the ridge. Nathan confirmed the land use designation is Urban Employment Lands which does not include residential permissions.

Duncan requested clarification on when written submissions need to be provided in order to be considered. Nathan advised written submissions can be provided up until the date of the decision. Nathan confirmed the report would be included in a Committee of the Whole agenda and subsequently considered by Council.

Duncan questioned if there is time for the Agricultural Advisory Committee to make a written submission prior to Council considering a report. It was requested that the matter be tracked to ensure the Committee can provide comments on the application prior to a follow-up staff report being considered by Council.

Executive Assistant Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield noted that at the February 12, 2020 Committee meeting, Nathan attended and provided an update on the Bayou Cable Park application. Sarah noted at the meeting the discussion included individuals submitting comments as members of the public rather than as a Committee as it may effectively bind the Council member(s) on the Committee to pre-confirm their comments. Councillor Matrosovs noted it is not too late for any members who sit on the Committee to provide comments as members of the public regarding the application.

Nathan clarified that when discussing matters under the *Planning Act* Council members on the Committee are put in an interesting position as it is not at a Council meeting. Nathan noted the need to ensure every member of the Committee, including the Council members, can appropriately fulfill their duties due to the very legislated *Planning Act* process. Nathan noted he values the comments and input of the committee through the Committee meeting process but emphasized the need to consider the dual role of Council members in a Committee versus Council setting.

Committee member Duncan McKinlay noted his understanding of the potential challenge of submitting a particular suggestion to refuse or accept a planning application but noted the Committee would like to provide comments for Council and staff's consideration to have regard for certain agricultural-related matters including buffering and traffic. It was noted that Council member(s) on the Committee could consult with the Integrity Commissioner.

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

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

The motion is Carried.

C.7 Tree Preservation By-law Update – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Note: this item was moved ahead of Item C.4

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp noted the work on the joint open house for the Town’s Tree Preservation Update lost some momentum due to COVID-19. Nathan noted that now Public Meetings are permitted to occur virtually which will assist in allowing staff to proceed with the joint open house, but further noted that a new date has not been set.

The Committee requested more information on the nature of the Grey County Tree Preservation By-law Update. Nathan confirmed he is not aware of any significant progress on the matter but noted the goal is for the County’s By-law to work better in conjunction with the Town’s By-law, for example: perhaps the Town’s By-law would deal with settlement areas and the County’s By-law would deal with other areas.

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

C.5 RABIT Task Force Introduction – Deputy Mayor Rob Potter

NOTE: This matter was moved ahead of Item C.4

Deputy Mayor Rob Potter thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak regarding the Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology (“RABIT”) Task Force. Deputy Mayor Potter emphasized that access to broadband internet in the rural portions of the Town is necessary. Deputy Mayor Potter noted the ICON program has been announced in Ontario and the Town provided a letter of support for Bruce Street Technologies’ application through the first intake. Deputy Mayor Potter further advised there will be a second intake opportunity. Deputy Mayor Potter noted there is a group of apple growers looking to install an irrigation system that could provide project efficiencies for fiberoptic installation.

Committee member Dennis Ouellette questioned whether the fiberoptic installation will include the village of Redwing, with Deputy Mayor Potter replying that eventually, the goal is for the entire municipality to benefit from broadband internet. Deputy Mayor Potter clarified that installation of the conduit may be in the roadway, or sometimes on private lands (i.e. in conjunction with the proposed apple growers' water irrigation system, upon the property owner's permission) as opposed to installed in the side of the ditch, which has been the traditional mode of installation.

Committee member John Ardiel noted this mandate is great news and questioned if additional apple growers can be considered for irrigation line and broadband conduit installation. Deputy Mayor Potter noted the Town is looking for partners to grow over time. Deputy Mayor Potter clarified the Town may consider charging royalties if the broadband model requires the Town to put the cable in the ground, as opposed to a private provider but emphasized this is not part of the first ICON proposal.

Councillor Matrosovs thanked Deputy Mayor Potter for the presentation.

Deputy Mayor Potter left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

C.4 Potential Road Swap Update – Director of Operations Shawn Carey

Director of Operations Shawn Carey noted the discussion about potential road swap (Marsh and Bruce Streets from Highway 26 to Clark Street and 10th Line from Matilda Street to Highway 26) is part of a discussion through the Town's Transportation Master Plan and, more regionally, through the Southwestern Region Ministry of Transportation Strategy. Shawn requested Transportation Committee representative John Ardiel provide an update on the Transportation Master Plan as a standing item on the Agricultural Advisory Committee agenda.

C.6 Wild Chervil Management on Private Property – Shawn Carey

Director of Operations Shawn Carey confirmed the Committee's questions of Tom Cowan, as discussed at the August 2020 meeting, have been answered. Shawn will prepare a written submission for the October 15, 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

C.8 Chair's Report – Councillor Matrosovs (verbal)

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed she attended the September 16, 2020 Grey County Forest Management Plan Update. The Forest Management Plans are developed in 25-year segments, and the current Plan is in the process of being updated. Councillor Matrosovs noted that during the inventory, the County determined cedar trees are not regenerating at the rate that was anticipated, as such, a "pearl necklace" planting approach, as opposed to "strip" planting may be considered. The new inventory will also include size classes. Councillor Matrosovs noted comments can be provided to October 2, 2020 and all comments will be provided to Council for consideration.

C.9 Consideration and Appointment of One (1) Agricultural Advisory Committee member to the Economic Development Advisory Committee

NOTE: John Ardiel appointed by Committee for a one-year term with Nancy Griffin listed as the alternate which expired April 2020.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee appoints John Ardiel as representative to the Economic Development Advisory Committee to the end of the 2018 to 2022 term

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

The motion is Carried.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee appoint Dennis Ouellette as the alternate representative to the Economic Development Advisory Committee to the end of the 2018 to 2022 term

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

The motion is Carried.

C.10 Agricultural Advisory Committee Action Item Tracking

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

D. Correspondence

D.1 Matthew Morton, Resident Re: Town Issues for Consideration and Action

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives correspondence item D.1 Matthew Morton, Resident Re: Town Issues for Consideration and Action for information

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

The motion is Carried.

D.2 Krista Hulshof, Vice President, Ontario Barn Preservation Re: Conserving Barns of Cultural Heritage Significance in Ontario

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receives correspondence item D.2 Krista Hulshof, Vice President, Ontario Barn Preservation Re: Conserving Barns of Cultural Heritage Significance in Ontario and advises Council to thank the Ontario Barn Preservation for their letter and further that the Committee does not recommend any action from Council on the letter

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

The motion is Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

E.1.1 Bill 156 Effect to Livestock Owners and OPP Enforcement

Referred to staff for October 15, 2020 meeting. Duncan noted Item E.1.1 and E.1.2 are related and clarified that a group, subject to an appeal, will be given a list of every farmer's name and address in Ontario. It is speculated the intent of the requested information is for animal rights demonstration purposes. Duncan questioned the level of OPP enforcement should farmers experience animal rights demonstrations or trespassing at their property. The Committee discussed that perhaps OPP could attend an Agricultural Advisory Committee to clarify OPP Enforcement of Bill 156 as it relates to activists and hunting.

E.1.2 Bill 156 Effect on Legal Hunters and OPP Enforcement

Referred to staff for October 15, 2020 meeting.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Transportation Master Plan Update (John Ardiel, standing item)
- Wild Chervil Management on Private Property and Follow-up Q&A from Tom Cowan
- Bill 156 and OPP Enforcement, with potential for representative from the OPP
- Bayou Cable Park Comments from Committee

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

October 15, 2020
Town Hall, Council Chambers

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 8:36 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair

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

The motion is Carried.