



Committee Report

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: September 16, 2021
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 \(September 16 , 2021\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes dated September 16, 2021 as attached, for information purposes.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Agricultural Advisory Committee

Date: September 16, 2021
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by:
Kyra Dunlop, Administrative Assistant Committees of Council

Members Present: Councillor Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, Dennis Ouellette

Members Absent: Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Elora Tarlo, James McKinlay

Staff Present: Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White, Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, Planner 1 Travis Sandberg

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

Administrative Assistant to Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop confirmed all members were present except Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, Elora Tarlo, and James McKinlay who sent their regrets.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons, Director of Operations Shawn Carey, Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White, Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, and Planner 1 Travis Sandberg

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Dennis Ouellette

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Agenda of September 16, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, and Dennis Ouellette

Absent (4): James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 4 absent)

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: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Dennis Ouellette

THAT the Minutes of August 19, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, and Dennis Ouellette

Absent (4): James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 4 absent)

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

B.3.1 2021 Wild Chervil Control Program Overview, CSOPS.21.062

Director of Operations Shawn Carey provided an overview of Staff Report CSOPS.21.062 to Committee Members and noted his thanked to Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White for his work on sending letters to residents and working with residents on managing the wild chervil.

Committee Member Dennis Ouellette noted that the Town may have to consider alternatives to spraying as 8 kilometers was a small spray area. Dennis noted that some property owners had been unhappy with the letter they received in 2020 and that a more general and educational notice would be beneficial. Dennis noted whether a notice could go out with the Spring Tax Bills to residents. Shawn noted that the financial information section that dealt with areas sprayed showed a decrease from 2020 to 2021.

Committee Member Duncan McKinlay thanked staff for their work and for the report. Duncan noted that continuous improvement would result in less road required to be sprayed. Duncan noted that the Town should not ease off on the areas sprayed on road allowances or Town lands.

Committee Member Lyn Vail noted that the Committee had previously identified that residents could contact Grey County if a county road needed to be sprayed. Lyn asked who residents should contact if they saw wild chervil on a highway. Shawn noted that staff would connect with the Ministry of Transportation and look into circulating their contact information. Shawn noted that on a recent meeting with the Ministry of Transportation that staff had discussed phragmite control and that a discussion around wild chervil was possible.

Councillor Matrosovs asked who a resident should connect with if they had a concern about an invasive plant, and what the response would be. Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer Raymond White noted that his approach would be to forward the resident's complaint to the Ministry of Transportation directly and noted that the Town had not received any such complaints for 2021.

Dennis asked whether a new Long Grass and Noxious Weed Control By-Law had been written and whether it could be made available to the Committee to review. Raymond noted that he would connect with Municipal Prosecutor Supervisor By-Law Services Wayne Dewitt regarding an update on the By-Law. Shawn noted that it would be beneficial if the Committee could review the By-Law before staff brought it to Council for their consideration.

Councillor Matrosovs experienced technical difficulties from 6:42 p.m. to 6:44 p.m.

Councillor Matrosovs noted her thanks to staff members for their work and participation in efforts to curb wild chervil.

Moved by: Dennis Ouellette

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.062, entitled "2021 Wild Chervil Control Program Overview" for their information.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, and Dennis Ouellette

Absent (4): James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 4 absent)

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Tree By-law Discussion - Planning Department

Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp noted that staff had connected with the community for feedback and provided an updated staff report to Committee of the Whole in September. Nathan advised that staff were looking to receive further direction as a result of discussion arising from Committee of the Whole, and noted that the goal posts which staff had been provided with included an update to the By-Law with refined improvements. Nathan noted that staff would be working closely with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Advisory Committee for their feedback on a

draft By-Law. Nathan noted that the revised By-Law would come back to both committees for their review and input prior to staff bringing the report forward to Council for their consideration. Nathan noted that staff were limited to focusing on urban areas only, and that staff would like to continue the current applicable farm exemptions within the By-Law.

Planner 1 Travis Sandberg noted that through the public engagement process staff had identified that a key areas of concern included tree cutting in development areas and for the Town to provide oversight where there currently was none by either Grey County or the Grey Sauble Conservation Area. Travis advised that the By-Law would focus on settlement areas, including primary settlement areas and recreational areas.

Councillor Matrosovs asked whether staff had identified if there was an overlap between settlement and agricultural land. Travis noted that staff were not at that stage of review and noted that if agricultural lands were within the subject lands being reviewed that those agricultural lands would still benefit from existing exemptions. John Ardiel noted that a more detailed map would be beneficial. Travis noted that staff would endeavor to complete more mapping and noted that staff would look into clarifying the active orchards on the maps to reflect farm lot lines. Nathan noted that an interactive map would be provided for review and noted that the map presented was accurate but that the scale was off. John Ardiel noted whether settlement areas would be included in a revised map. Nathan noted that staff could identify where settlements were located on the map without marking the lines.

Councillor Matrosovs asked how staff could be best contacted for feedback and questions. Nathan noted that individuals could reach out to staff by emailing planning@thebluemountains.ca. Nathan noted that it would be beneficial for planning staff to receive comments no later than October 15, 2021 in order for staff to prepare an update for the November committee meeting.

Duncan noted whether normal farming practices would be exempted from lands being developed in the Thornbury and Clarksburg areas. Nathan noted that normal farming activities would be exempt regardless of if whether they were inside or outside the settlement area. Nathan advised that staff would be working with the Official Plan Review Steering Committee to ensure that a By-Law could be written that allowed the updated Official Plan to do its' job.

Councillor Matrosovs thanked Nathan and Travis for their update to the Committee.

C.2 2022 Budget Discussion - Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons and Director of Operations Shawn Carey

Shawn Carey experienced technical difficulties 7:29 to 7:33 p.m.

Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons noted that the Deputy Treasurer had previously come to the Committee requesting feedback for items to be considered for the 2021 budget. Ryan noted staff were taking the same approach for the 2022 budget deliberations. Ryan noted that one of the items the Committee had previously identified was the addition of an in-house staff member and resourcing for noxious weed control. Ryan noted that members would be welcome to provide feedback for other items to be considered in the budget.

Duncan noted that there were dead ash trees on roadsides and that there were concerns regarding more of them falling onto roads, and noted that some were risky to fell. Ryan advised that the Manager of Roads and Drainage was working on mapping trees and that staff were working on a tender to have trees removed. Ryan noted that the most hazardous trees would be prioritized.

Nathan left the meeting at 7: 36 p.m.

Dennis noted that the County of Grey took a proactive approach to spraying noxious weeds, and asked whether the Town could work with Grey County on a proactive response to spraying. Director of Operations Shaw Carey noted that the Town has had that conversation with Grey Bruce in both 2020 and 2021. Shawn noted that the Grey Sauble Conservation authority does not have licenses to spray noxious weeds with the application that the Town had been using, and noted that Grey County had an in-house staff member and did not have the ability to arrange for that person to assist with Town roadside spraying.

C.3 Action Item Tracking

- Heritage Apple Variety Nursery, update if available
 - Fruit Growers Association provided advice to create an inventory on the Town's website as a first step, which will be brought back to the Agricultural Advisory Committee at the appropriate time for review
 - Ryan noted he had received correspondence from the past president of the local Fruit Growers Association who advised they would be able to assist the Town with the inventory list. Ryan noted staff would like to release the inventory list in time for the new Town website launch. John Ardiel noted he would be happy to assist.
- Parking Update, if any

- Fill By-Law
 - Staff will be putting together a proposal for an update to the Fill By-Law as part of the 2022 budget
 - Committee members requested an update be brought to a future Committee meeting

Duncan experienced technical difficulties between 7:36 and 7:38 p.m.

C.4 Follow-up Direction from Council

Direction from Council at the August 23, 2021 meeting:

THAT, in accordance with the June 17, 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation, Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains directs staff to forward the National Inventory Report 1990-2019 Greenhouse Gases and Sinks to Ontario agricultural associations (OFA, Christian Farmers Union, NFU) seeking their response and what actions and advice they have, CARRIED.

Councillor Matrosovs read the direction provided from Council.

C.5 Chair's Report

Councillor Matrosovs provided an overview of the resolution passed by Council on September 7, 2021 regarding the Clearlite Application. Nathan provided a brief background of the steps involved in the Clearlite Application.

Dennis noted that when the Committee had passed a motion in support of Clearlite's application that the Committee did not vote in favour of an electrical contractor on the proposed site. Nathan noted that electrical work was a component of the proponent's business and that in the course of reviewing the proponent's application additional uses were disclosed and that the Ministry of Transportation had brought up some concerns regarding impact on the roads near the subject site.

John asked what the next steps would be for the applicant. Nathan noted that staff had recommended that Council defer their decision so that the applicant could work with the Ministry of Transportation. Nathan advised that as Council has refused the application, the applicant could appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal or reapply and start the process through the Town. John noted his opposition to the decision that was made and noted that he felt the Sustainability Committee had made a poor choice.

Councillor Matrosovs called for a Point of Order at 7:24 p.m. and noted that the Sustainability Committee was not involved in the decision making process and advised that Council had directed that the application be refused. John noted that it was Town staff's responsibility that the application be brought forward to the Sustainability Committee and noted that he hoped Clearlite brought an

appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. John noted that the Sustainability Committee should get their thoughts on paper before the Official Plan Review began. Nathan noted that staff would be consulting with all Committees of Council throughout the Official Plan Review process to receive feedback, including discussions around different industry and employment in the Town.

Travis left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

D. Correspondence

None

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to Agenda

E.1.1 Film Feature Re Craigleith Depot

Ryan noted that the Craigleith Heritage Depot had previously completed an original film about the Depot. Ryan noted that Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry had brought a report to Council in Spring 2021 identifying how the Town could support local events, such as the Apple Festival that takes place in October. Ryan noted that staff had reached out to Craigleith Heritage Depot staff about doing a second feature on the Town's apple history and advised that the film was nearing completion. Ryan advised that the Craigleith Heritage Depot had requested Councillor Matrosovs to take part in the video. John Ardiel noted he would also be interested in participating. Councillor Matrosovs noted that she would connect with the Craigleith Heritage Depot regarding what they were envisioning for the film.

E.1.2 Emily Project Update - Committee Member Dennis Ouellette

Dennis noted that the Committee had previously considered the Emily Project and the benefits it could provide to the agricultural community. Dennis advised that a phone app was available which made it easier for first responders to locate individuals who called for assistance. Dennis noted he had reached out to the Ontario Provincial Police to find out if they used this system, and noted that the OPP advised that they did. Dennis advised that the app was called "What Three Words". Duncan noted that farmers would need to have certain phone capabilities to be able to download and use the app, which Dennis confirmed.

Ryan noted that the Fire Department had started using this technology and that the Town would be putting out communications to the community about this.

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Action Item Tracking
 - Heritage Apple Variety Nursery Update, if available
 - Parking Update, if any
 - Fill By-Law Update, if any
 - Staff will be putting together a proposal for an update to the Fill By-Law as part of the 2022 budget
- Tree By-Law Update
 - Staff will bring an update to the Committee at a future meeting
- Cable Park Update
- Industrial Park Update
- Rights and Responsibilities of Maintenance on Road Allowances
- Slow Moving Vehicle Signs and Trespassing Signs

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

October 21, 2021

Town Hall, Council Chambers (Virtual)

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 7:56 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, John Ardiel, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail, and Dennis Ouellette

Absent (4): James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Rosemary Mesley, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 4 absent)