



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: November 23, 2017
Meeting Time: 2:30pm
Location: Town Hall, IPW & P&DS Meeting Room
Prepared by: Heather Drane, Clerk Receptionist, Infrastructure and Public Works

A. Call to Order

- **Present:** James McKinlay, Lynn Vail, John Ardiel, Shawn Everitt, Elizabeth Cornish and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Al Lockhart, Grant McMurchy, John McKean
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Moved by:** John Ardiel **Seconded by:** Lynn Vail

Committee discussed adding three items to the Agenda, added under B.5 - Portion of Duncan Street East, B.6 - 10th Line and Clendenan Bridge and B.7 – Recycling of white plastic bail material.

THAT the Agenda dated November 23, 2017 be approved as revised, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Previous Minutes**

Minutes are circulated and approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, using electronic mail. Minutes of the May 23, 2017 meeting were included in the September 6, 2017 Council meeting.

B. Deputations, Presentations, Topics

B.1 Correspondence

B.1.1 Email from Soil Health (OMAFRA) – Ontario's Draft Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation.

The email from OMAFRA was forwarded to the Committee on November 7, 2017 for their information and was also reviewed briefly during the meeting. It was noted that

Ontario's Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation is a hot topic in the Agricultural Community.

B.2 Discussion on 'Share the Road' signage

Shawn Everitt supplied a sample of the Share the Road sign that was authorized by the Agricultural Committee a few years ago. The sign includes lettering 'Share the Road' along with the images of a tractor and bicycle. There were 10 signs installed on various roads a few years back, but these signs were taken down promptly by unknown people. The new signs will be mounted more securely.

Shawn noted the OPP are taking Share the Road seriously and using their dash cameras, they have issued many fines this year during the Bike Ride Programs. It is the responsibility of riders as a slow moving vehicle to ride to the far right, as safe as possible and still be on the pavement.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of the sign Shawn Everitt provided and agreed to mark a map with preferred locations to install these signs. Mr. Everitt will consult with a local experienced cyclist that will know the best locations to post signs where active biking occurs and will put together a map of these locations. Shawn Everitt noted that signs must not be located too close to intersections or regulatory signage, adding that the County is very supportive and have provided signage with the add in of 1m between tractor and bicycle.

The Committee decided on a sign, 'Share the Road' (with Tractor and Bicycle images) and marked preferred locations on a map. They also requested a sign, 'Active Farming', 'Please Share the Road' (rectangular sign with Car, Tractor and Bicycle images) and also marked preferred locations on the map throughout the Town that are key entry positions to the community.

B.3 SWIFT construction to start in 2018 (South Western Integrated Fibre Technology Network)

Committee reviewed a newspaper article from 'Grey-Bruce this Week' regarding the SWIFT construction to start in 2018. The main gist of the article was Geoff Hogan, Executive Director of the SWIFT Network announced at Grey County Council in October that the project to expand ultra-high-speed Internet access will begin in 2018. The first RFP for the project will be to identify where the core and aggregation network for SWIFT will be built. Municipalities will supply locations to house the necessary infrastructure. Once the core network is established, the network will branch off from there. The goal of SWIFT is to create an extensive, open-access network that brings ultra-high-speed fibreoptic connections to every home, farm, business and organization in the southwestern Ontario region by 2040 at the latest. This is good news to some very sophisticated agricultural operations out there that need to be connected. The more information SWIFT obtains from municipalities, will help decisions about where to build infrastructure. The SWIFT survey on their website is: www.swiftnetwork.ca

Elizabeth Cornish explained Shawn Everitt, also involved in SWIFT and is very supportive of this project that is still in the first steps. Elizabeth noted she will follow up on what interaction Town Staff have had with the SWIFT project thus far.

B.4 Follow-up by Elizabeth Cornish from her presentation to the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on May 23, 2017.

Elizabeth followed up on some of her ideas presented at the May 23, 2017 AAC meeting, including ways to get information out to the Agricultural Community through TBM weekly emails, twitter, advertisements in the local newspaper, Facebook and Instagram.

Elizabeth is looking into a newsletter next year that will be focused on small groups, business news and Agricultural news.

Elizabeth noted the New Technology AG 4.0.1 is coming to the Meaford Hall on November 24, 2017 and has agreed to post information about Grey Bruce Farmers week 2018, taking place January 3, 2018 to January 9, 2018.

B.5 Portion of Duncan Street East

John Ardiel asked Shawn Everitt if there is a possibility that the portion of Duncan Street West, between Bruce Street South and Russell Street East will be closed. John's concern is this would interfere with the ability of farm vehicles to access the Blue Water Storage.

Shawn Everitt replied the closing was considered as a potential but no decision is being made just yet and added that discussion will take place with the Agricultural Advisory Committee before any decisions are made. Remembrance Day is the day this portion of road receives heavy travel. Shawn suggested that inserts for dressy pipes would be installed for Remembrance Day and the portion of road would be closed only on Remembrance Day with the bulk of traffic using Russell Street. Shawn added no one wants the portion of Duncan Street West closed and that smaller farm vehicles use this Duncan St. West route.

B.6 10th Line and Clendenan Bridge

John Ardiel asked Shawn Everitt whether the Clendenan Bridge may be considered for an EA. If Clendenan Bridge was reopened it would reduce traffic load through Thornbury and Clarksburg and provide a by-pass road along the 10th Line. Right now when taking an alternate route out to Hwy 26 with farming equipment there is a bottleneck, coming down to the one lane at the lights in Thornbury. Passing on the right when someone is turning left at the lights in Thornbury is not an option and added taking Grey Road 40 up to 13 and through Clendenan up the 10th line to Hwy 26 would keep the agricultural equipment in the agricultural area. John noted the Agricultural Advisory Committee took a deputation to Council last year and there was no budget for the Clendenan Bridge EA. Kathleen Wynne has since allotted more money to the annual government infrastructure fund towards more help with Bridges and Roads.

Shawn Everitt noted that work would have to be done to inclines off of Matilda and the 10th Line, from Clark Street to Beaver Street and suggested the Agricultural Advisory Committee take something formalized to the Committee of the Whole for Council's consideration. Shawn Everitt will discuss with SMT.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee want to set up their next meeting in January, 2018 with Reg Russwurm and Jim McCannell in attendance. This meeting will be to acquire more information and discuss the possibility of obtaining an EA for the Clendenan

Bridge, for XX amount of Tonnage and reduction of the hill and/or raising of the 10th Line.

B.7 Recycling of white plastic bail material

Committee inquired as to whether the Town's Landfill site accepts the white plastic bail material for recycling. The Town Landfill accepts this wrap as a waste item only and does not recycle the white plastic bail material.

Moved by: Lynn Vail

Seconded by: John Ardiel

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 4:30 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.