



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: March 21, 2019
Meeting Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
Prepared by: Heather Drane, Clerk Receptionist, Infrastructure and Public Works

A. Call to Order

- **Present:** James McKinlay, Grant McMurchy, Lynn Vail, Duncan McKinlay, Andrea Matrosovs, and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Nancy Griffin, John Ardiel
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Moved by:** Grant McMurchy **Seconded by:** Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agenda dated March 21, 2019 be approved, including item B.7, Other business added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof.**

None

- **Previous Minutes**

Minutes are circulated and approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, using electronic mail. Minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting were included in the July 9, 2018 Council meeting and were provided for the March 21, 2019 meeting for reference.

B. Deputations, Presentations, Topics

B.1 Welcome and introductions of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Members and establish a Chair for the AGAC's meetings.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee Members introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their Agricultural interests.

Andrea Matrosovs is a smallholder growing willow for basket making, heirloom apples and lavender. Andrea belongs to the Grey Local 344 National Farmers Union and to the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario. She has been appointed to both Conservation Authorities boards, Grey Youth Roots and the Grey County Farm Safety Association.

Lynn Vail farms 100 acres with her husband on the 24th Sideroad. They have a small herd of registered Simmental cattle. They have farmed for about 10 years and are the 3rd generation of Vails at this location. They are members of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

James McKinlay has a 1600 acre farm south of Ravenna with his wife and son. He has a herd of 150 cattle. His son is working toward taking over the farm eventually. James is a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Grey County Soil and Crop, Beef Committees and has served on the Agricultural Advisory Committee since 2008.

Grant McMurchy has a farm on Grey Road 2, grows corn, beans, wheat and canola. Grant is a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Grey County Soil and Crop.

Duncan McKinlay has a farm with a small beef cow-calf herd with his son and wife and grows crops to feed the cattle. His son is in the Ontario Dairy Industry. Duncan is appointed to the Niagara Escarpment Commission and identifies himself as an advocate of Rural and agricultural communities as good stewards of Niagara Escarpment lands. Duncan is also a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

The Committee discussed establishing a Chair for the Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings and decided to wait until the next meeting when all the members are present. Andrea Matrosovs was temporary Chair for this meeting.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: James McKinlay

THAT Andrea Matrosovs be appointed temporary chair for this meeting and elect a Chair at the next meeting, Carried.

B.2 Corrina Giles, Town Clerk to review the current AGAC's Terms of Reference dated 2008 and the Town's Procedural By-law. Certified Resolution re: appointment of Councilor Andrea Matrosovs and direction to review and revise the existing Terms of Reference. Bring forward a draft revision of the existing Terms of Reference for Council review and consideration.

The Town Clerk, Corrina Giles was unable to attend this meeting. The AGAC Committee reviewed the AGAC's Terms of Reference dated 2008 and made some draft revisions. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed again for revisions at the next meeting when more members are present.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT this AGAC Terms of Reference be brought back to the Committee for revisions before giving a draft revision to Council, Carried.

B.3 Review of the revised EDAC Terms of Reference noting that one member must be appointed from the AGAC to sit on the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

The Committee reviewed the EDAC Terms of Reference and would like to have the rest of the AGAC members present to make revisions.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the EDAC Terms of Reference revisions be postponed until the second meeting when all Committee member are present, Carried.

B.4 The Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Government and Policy Committee correspondence.

Moved by: Lynn Vail Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the AGAC receive this correspondence from the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Carried

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: James McKinlay

THAT the AGAC recommends that the Town of Blue Mountains Council support the GCFA's ongoing advocacy that supports the overall County tax revenue objectives while not shifting the increased burden to farmers, Carried.

B.5 Correspondence (from Reg Russwurm) re: Clendenan Bridge

Reg Russwurm confirmed that funding is within the Transportation Master Plan project budget for the Clendenan Bridge EA.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the AGAC received the correspondence from Reg Russwurm, Carried

B.6 Correspondence from Duncan McKinlay re: The Citizens Forum requesting a presentation on agricultural challenges and opportunities in our Municipality and options to provide a speaker.

Rosemary Gosselin from The Citizens Forum inquired about the AGAC sending a Member to this Citizens Forum to provide a speaker to present for April 30, 2019 to speak on behalf of the AGAC.

The AGAC discussed and advised it would be best if the Citizens Forum contact the Grey County Federation of Agriculture to send a speaker as this is not a primary role of the AGAC. The temporary Chair, Andrea Matrosavs will get back to Rosemary Gosselin and

inquire with GCFA to see if they are interested in sending a speaker to the Citizens Forum.

Moved by: Lynn Vail Seconded by: Grant McMurchy

THAT the AGAC ask the temporary Chair to reply to Rosemary Gosselin with a list of potential organizations, Carried.

B.7 Other Business

Committee discussed looking at the local level for ideas to try to preserve farm land and being included in the TBM Master Transportation Plan discussions.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: James McKinlay

THAT the AGAC recommend to Council that this Committee be included in the earliest stages and onward of the TBM Master Transportation Plan, Carried.

Adjournment

Moved by: James McKinlay Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 7:40 p.m. to meet again in one month on Thursday, April 18, 2019 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, in the Council Chambers, Carried.