



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: April 18, 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, Lynn Vail, Duncan McKinlay, John Ardiel, Andrea Matrosovs, Nancy Griffin, Mayor, Alar Soever and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Grant McMurchy, Corrina Giles
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Moved by:** Lynn Vail **Seconded by:** Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agenda dated April 18, 2019 be approved, including any items 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 March 21, 2019 meeting were included in the April 24, 2019 Council meeting.

A.1 Discussion resulting from the minutes of March 21, 2019

Mayor Alar Soever mentioned that Grey County has approved a 1% reduction in the farm tax rate. Mayor Soever brought a motion at the County to write a letter to the Province to attempt fairness in taxes. Committee of the Whole is to send correspondence to the County regarding fairness in taxes. Ruth Prince and Mayor Soever are putting together some data and working on a presentation to take to the Province.

John Ardiel discussed the idea of appealing the property value but noted this may result in cost of taxes going up instead of down, especially if neighboring properties sell high.

Duncan McKinlay noted he is glad to see Mayor Soever is taking a leadership role on this and asked if Mayor Soever was talking to AMO. Mayor Soever replied yes and he is also putting a presentation together to take to ROMA and AMO.

Andrea Matrosovs met with Hugh Simpson, President of the GCFA, with Grey County, OFA and GSCA to talk about establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee at the GSCA. Hugh Simson is speaking on April 30, 2019 at 5:00 at the Corner Café.

B. Deputations, Presentations, Topics

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

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

John Ardiel along with his two sons are fourth generation apple growers and operate Ardiel Acres Ltd, a large apple orchard operation. John and his sons are shareholders of Bay Growers storage and packing facility, supplying Ontario chain stores. They are also partners in Georgian Hills Vineyards/Winery and also the Ardiel Cider House

Nancy Griffin grew up on a fourth generation farm in the Kawartha Lakes area and had sheep livestock and berry crops for homemade jams. Nancy got involved with the AGAC as she realizes land is so precious and in demand and believes it's important to attract young people into the agricultural practice. She is in the financial planning business.

Andrea Matrosovs was nominated Chair for the AGAC's meetings. Andrea is happy to accept the term of one year as Chair and to revisit the position after this one year term to carry on as Chair or pass on to another member.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Nancy Griffith

THAT the AGAC appoint Andrea Matrosovs to Chair the AGAC meetings for a one year term, Carried.

B.2 Review and revise the existing AGAC Terms of Reference. Bring forward a draft revision of the existing Terms of Reference for Council review and consideration.

The AGAC reviewed the Terms of Reference and made some revisions.

Moved by: John Ardiel Seconded by: James McKinlay

THAT the AGAC endorse the revised Terms of Reference of April 2019 and direct Staff to provide the revised AGAC Terms of Reference to Council for consideration and approval, 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. John Ardiel was nominated to sit on the Economic Development Advisory Committee. John is happy to accept a one year term to sit on the EDAC with an alternate member as backup for when he cannot attend. Nancy Griffin accepted the position of alternate to sit on the EDAC.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the AGAC appoint John Ardiel to sit on the Economic Development Advisory Committee for a one year term and appoint Nancy Griffin as alternate for same term, Carried.

B.4 Other Business

Andrea Matrosovs noted that the Town of Blue Mountains Council now have representation on the Grey County Farm Safety Association.

Andrea brought along stickers meant for bumpers or windows with the wording “We share our food, please share the road” for members to display and to distribute to interested parties. Andrea also has colouring sheets on farm safety available for children to colour, titled “find the hazards”.

Andrea noted she attended an event called “Grown in Grey” where Grade 5 students from all over Bruce & Grey Counties participated in, accompanied by their teachers. The event had around 25 booths introducing the children to farm life with milking demonstrations, chicken farming and grain growing to name a few. There were around 600 children that attended this 2 day event.

John Ardiel asked Mayor Soever about the Apple Pie Trail and their request for grants and donations. Mayor Soever replied that the Town will support the Apple Pie Trail.

John Ardiel asked Mayor Soever about any changes in the Official Plan regarding the preservation of specialty crop land. Mayor Soever replied there are no substantial changes.

James McKinlay noted that Grey Sauble has a number of programs of interest to the agricultural community. Andrea Matrosovs will help circulate some pamphlets of interest to the agricultural community.

The AGAC will meet the newly appointed committee member at the next AGAC meeting.

Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 7:02 p.m. to meet again in one month on Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, in the Council Chambers, Carried.