



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: May 16, 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, Grant McMurchy, Andrea Matrosovs, Nancy Griffin, Rosemary Mesley, Mayor, Alar Soever and scribe Heather Drane

- **Regrets:** Corrina Giles, John Ardiel

- **Approval of Agenda**

Recommended **Moved by:** Duncan McKinlay **Seconded by:** Nancy Griffin

THAT the Agenda dated May 16, 2019 be approved, including items C.5 and C.6 added to the Agenda, Carried.

- **Previous Minutes (April 18, 2019)**

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay **Seconded by:** Lynn Vail

That the Minutes of April 18, 2019 be approved as circulated and approved by the Agricultural Advisory Committee, using electronic mail. Minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting will be included in the June 3, 2019 Council meeting, Carried.

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

None

B. Deputations / Presentations

None

C. New and Unfinished Business

C.1 Welcome and introduction of the new Agricultural Advisory Committee Member, Rosemary Mesley.

Andrea Matrosovs introduced Rosemary Mesley and noted that the AGAC now has a full complement of members.

Rosemary Mesley moved here in June of 2016. This is her third farm. First she had a hobby farm followed by a working farm of 127 acres and now operates a 48 acre farm. She has horses and also teaches riding.

Other AGAC members gave a quick overview of their farming operations and interests.

C.2 Correspondence from Reg Russwurm regarding wild chervil spraying and feedback on the effectiveness of this annual spraying of Truvist. Is there value in continuing? The annual cost is around \$20,000.

Mayor Alar Soever gave a brief background of using spray to control wild chervil. In 2010 the GCA applied to have the County deal with the persistent problem of the wild chervil spreading and affecting crop yield.

2011 test crops were sprayed and wild chervil died off quickly.

2015 infested road sides were treated.

2017 the south end of the County was treated.

2018 persistent areas were identified.

The issue is the spray works very well where the wild chervil is treated and treated early before the plant goes to seed. Seeds are spread predominantly by water ways and by Municipal roadside cutting. With spot treating, the wild chervil dies in the treated areas but if not treated on the other side of the fence it spreads and comes back.

Andrea Matrosovs noted there was a map circulated at the Council Meeting as to where spraying Wild Chervil is done.

Mayor Soever noted it's easy to see the effectiveness where areas are sprayed but on the other side where there was no treatment there will be a field of Wild Chervil.

Lynn Vail mentioned if Wild Chervil gets into the pasture, it takes over and the pasture cannot be used to feed the animals. If you don't spray, you can't grow anything and if WC gets into the forest the wild animals can't feed. Lynn advised a by-law prohibiting growing Wild Chervil in flowerbeds.

Duncan McKinlay noted there are many sources of spreading the Wild Chervil seeds including water courses, hummers and the township cutting bar. It would help if roadside cutting was done earlier in the season before seeds are spread. Wild Chervil is declared a noxious weed and by-law could request it be sprayed by the property owner and the cost could be added to their tax bill. Duncan agreed keep doing what we are doing and work on ways to make spraying more successful next year through research and education, start to pull together a better program next year for everyone's wellbeing. Residents place their own "do not spray" signs but the County can still spray regardless of the sign.

Nancy Griffin noted controlling this invasive species is important for good stewardship of the land and that timely application of the spray, best efforts on behalf of residents and spraying before the seeds form is essential to control WC. There is an opportunity to do some educating and to provide workshops about invasive species and suggested the Town take the lead in this education. Having a weed inspector come in and give a presentation on invasive species control for the farm, forest and home vegetable garden would be ideal.

Rosemary Mesley added she does not think she has WC on her property but has Knap Weed which is very toxic to horses and spreads toxin through its root system. Rosemary mentioned she uses the bush hog to get weeds chopped down before seeds form. Rosemary recommended an informative workshop on invasive plant species identification and eradication. The workshop is held in Neustadt at the River Croft Farm. For more information including directions, contact: Gary Kenny rivercroft16@hotmail.ca

James McKinlay indicated he has spent 30-35 years dealing with WC and it has been a topic of discussion since the AGAC began. James maintains that management of this invasive weed is crucial for good stewardship of the land and would be very disappointed if spraying is discontinued. WC is a huge problem with perennial crops such as hay and the WC greatly decreases productivity of many crops. Public education and awareness is needed.

Grant McMurchy mentioned there are other sprays that the US uses but are not approved for use in Canada.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee ("AGAC") requests Council to direct staff to continue with the existing Wild Chervil control programs including roadside spraying and cutting;

AND FURTHER THAT the AGAC requests Council to instruct staff to:

- i) research education programs for land owners;
- ii) conduct a review of the existing Wild Chervil control program with exploration of developing the program to improve effectiveness;
- iii) review weed inspection programs with this committee to assist in further advising Council on appropriate measure for the stewardship of municipal and private lands within TBM, Carried.

C.3 Corrina Giles, Town Clerk to review the Town of The Blue Mountains Procedural By-Law Number 2018-20

Corrina sent her regrets.

The Committee reviewed the Town of The Blue Mountains Procedural By-Law Number 2018-20 and had a request for Corrina to provide an interpretation regarding #8 under 1.0 Definitions.

C.4 The Town Policies and Legislation package was attached to the AGAC meeting request for AGAC information.

The package is to be reviewed by the AGAC members and there will be a Policy & Legislation acknowledgement sheet that can be signed at the June 20, 2019 AGAC meeting which just requires all members to acknowledge receipt of this policy package.

C.5 Communication regarding Town Biking and Running Events

Heather Drane asked Liz Saunders about biking and running events coming up and if she could provide the AGAC members with communication regarding these events. This would allow the agricultural community to plan their movement of farm equipment on those roads that are affected.

Liz Saunders provided a list of upcoming events for cycling and running. Liz will also send the AGAC members an email of upcoming events and the associated routes. The AGAC members will pass on this information to the agricultural community.

Ryan Gibbons will attend the June 20, 2019 AGAC meeting to go over these events with the Committee as well.

C.6 James McKinlay provided a Video link regarding powerful words from the US Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack. Title of video - Keep Farmers Farming.

The AGAC members viewed this video and the link is here: <https://t.co/UxZgvyWshM>

Adjournment

Moved by: Grant McMurchy Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 7:30 p.m. to meet again in one month on Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, in the Council Chambers, Carried.