



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: June 20, 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, Nancy Griffin, Rosemary Mesley, Ryan Gibbons, Mayor, Alar Soever and scribe Heather Drane
- **Regrets:** Corrina Giles, John Ardiel, Andrea Matrosovs

- **Approval of Agenda**

Recommended **Moved by:** Nancy Griffin **Seconded by:** Rosemary Mesley

THAT the Agenda dated June 20, 2019 be approved, Carried.

- **Appointment of temporary Chair**

Recommended **Moved by:** Grant McMurchy **Seconded by:** Nancy Griffin

THAT the AGAC members appoint Duncan McKinlay as temporary Chair for tonight's meeting, Carried.

- **Previous Minutes (May 16, 2019)**

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

That the Minutes of May 16, 2019 be approved as circulated, Carried.

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

None

B. Deputations / Presentations

None

C. New and Unfinished Business

C.1 Discussion regarding the June 1, 2019 Invasive Species Workshop.

Rosemary Mesley attended the June 1st Invasive Species Workshop in Neustadt at the River Croft Farm and gave an overview of the workshop to the AGAC members.

The workshop had a great turnout. Rosemary gave some background information on the speaker, Sean James. Sean is an award winning horticulturalist, eco-landscaper and biodiversity expert.

Some topics discussed included noxious and invasive weeds, those that cause destruction, know your species, early detection before they become invasive, best management practices to follow, focus on what the property owner can do, native species of trees and shrubs to plant.

Rosemary noted there is a great book called “Weeds and What They Tell You” noting that weeds can tell you what is lacking in the soil.

Rosemary noted a very informational pamphlet called “Grow Me Instead” regarding noninvasive plants for gardens, also tree and shrub species that are not invasive.

Link to “Grow Me Instead” [GROW ME INSTEAD](#)

Recommended books: The Hidden Life of Trees and Secret Wisdom of Nature.

Rosemary found a great article that is a United States article and covers the Wild Chervil topic well. The link is here: [Weed of the Month King County weeds](#)

Grant McMurchy noted we need to get on top of the invasive species as fast as we can.

James McKinlay noted there is no natural control for Wild Chervil. We need to take steps to eradicate, keep spraying and cutting early. Looking along roadsides the results are obvious where the weeds are controlled and is very effective.

Lynn Vail noted that new seeds of crops planted cannot grow through Wild Chervil as it crowds new growth out.

Mayor Soever noted its evident where the spraying has worked at the side of the road and beyond the road allowance where the Wild Chervil is not controlled. Private residential lots that have Wild Chervil can be pulled out by the resident.

Duncan McKinlay noted that the WC must be sprayed or cut early before going to seed. The contractor that does the spraying applies for his license earlier. Nancy Griffin commented increasing education and awareness will go a long way. She is looking forward to what Council recommends.

James McKinlay noted it would be helpful if home owners received education on eradicating the WC, a demonstration on how well spraying works and seeing properties that have been controlled and how it was done. Also other spray options for control.

Moved by: James McKinlay **Seconded by:** Grant McMurchy

THAT the AGAC request Council to report to AGAC by the next meeting regarding being notified right away after the Wild Chervil resolution, Carried.

C.2 Cycling and running events logistics and notification from Community Services to the AGAC members.

The AGAC members have been receiving a list of cycling and running events with maps included from Community Services and find this information very useful, noting usually the event can be worked around. Sometimes the lead up to the even can be an issue, with people practicing for the event. The agricultural community does their best to share the road.

Ryan prepared an overview of the 2019 special events and shared this with the members.

Ryan Gibbons noted that there is a Cycling Safety Group that promotes awareness for all who use the road. This group identifies concerns, provides consistent communication and noted this group would be a great resource for AGAC members to advocate their concerns. They meet during the day. Duncan McKinlay suggested a combined short meeting at an AGAC meeting.

Ryan will speak to the group to set up a meeting.

Ryan noted that a contact from Share the Road group will have Flashing lights for bikes available within the next two weeks. The lights are \$4.00 each. Contact Ryan if you would be interested.

Lynn Vail noted that signage was requested by the AGAC committee in 2017, some share the road signage that included a bike, car and tractor. These would be installed along roads that are well used by agricultural vehicles. Ryan noted he will follow up on the history of signs.

C.3 Policy & Legislation acknowledgment sheet for members to sign.

The Policy & Legislation package was reviewed and the AGAC members present signed the acknowledgment sheet.

C.4 Discussion regarding Staff Report PDS.19.44 by Travis Sandberg, titled Tree Protection and Next Steps

Members discussed the main points of this Staff Report and understood the tree protection options are designed to protect a larger area, properties with minimum area of 0.5 ha. To make sure trees are not clear cut, designed to protect smaller properties, undeveloped lots and specific designated areas. Tree removal as an active farm operation is exempt.

Moved by: James McKinlay **Seconded by:** Nancy Griffin

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee (“AGAC”) has received the PDS.19.44 report by Travis Sandberg titled “Tree Protection and Next Steps” and support the recommendation contained herein, Carried.

C.5 Discussion on voluntary single use plastic items and how it affects agriculture.

The AGAC members reviewed the resolution from Council regarding single use plastics and their goal to “become a community that supports movement towards a zero-waste society”.

John Ardiel’s concerns were the single use plastics such as the wrap around the grape vines, the wrap on hay bales, plastics to suppress weeds and resources to handle these products. Now is the time to make comments and the Sustainability Committee will reach out and consult with other committees.

Rosemary noted that wrapped plastic for bales has a recycling sign but they can’t recycle them here. Don Knott will pick up these plastics and offers plastic bags to fill with the wrap and take away for \$60. James has used this service for years and the plastic gets recycled to make patio furniture and other items.

Mayor Soever noted the Sustainability Committee will look into plastic waste disposal. Implementation is in the works that the manufacturers making the plastic products will be responsible for collection of the plastics. Funding for the Landfill to set up the collection facility. Implementation is in the works to deal with single use plastics and the Sustainability Committee will reach out and consult with the various Town Committees.

Rosemary Mesley will make a point of discussing this issue with the Sustainability Committee. The AGAC members look forward to working with the Sustainability Committee.

Moved by: Rosemary Mesley **Seconded by:** Nancy Griffin

THAT The AGAC members received the single use plastics resolution from Council and wish to participate in the handling of single use plastic and request that the Agricultural Advisory Committee meet with the Sustainability Committee, Carried.

D.1 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allowed three minutes)

Denis Oeullette from the 10th Line noted roadsides are sprayed and it works well. The roadsides are clear of WC. To get an even better hold on clearing WC, he suggested private properties should be done as well. When mowed early enough and sprayed with Truvis every year it reduces seeds from being formed. He suggested working on other methods as well, off of city property to increase the eradication. Denis asked if WC affects the bottom line if it gets out of control and is concerned about the product Truvis and possible effects on dogs, people walking and contact with the spray. James McKinlay commented that WC isn’t a problem with annual crops but is a problem in non-cropland areas, hay fields, pasture lands and along water courses which is very hard to deal with.

Lucy Richmond from Fraser Crescent noted that in another community where the school is environmentally engaged they pick garlic mustard and they make pesto with it to sell as a fundraiser. Wild Chervil is also an herb that is used in cooking. Lucy suggested finding out what is happening in other communities with WC would be a good idea.

Adjournment

Moved by: Nancy Griffin

Seconded by: Rosemary Mesley

THAT this Committee does now adjourn at 7:40 p.m. to meet again in one month on new revised date, Tuesday, July 16, 2019 from 4:00pm until 6:00pm, in the Council Chambers, Carried.