



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: September 19, 2019
Meeting Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Karen Hilgendorf, Executive Assistant to the CAO, Scribe

A. Call to Order

Chair, Andrea Matrosovs called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

In attendance were John Ardiel, Nancy Griffin, Andrea Matrosovs, Duncan McKinlay, Lynn Vail

Also in attendance were Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets; Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Services; Wayne DeWitt, Supervisor, By-Law Enforcement; Chris Raynsford, Municipal Law Enforcement Office; Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation, Grey County; Bill Abbott's, Member of the Regional Cycling Focus Group and Karen Hilgendorf, Executive Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, Scribe

Regrets: Rosemary Mesley, Grant McMurchy; James McKinlay

As Committee attendance did not meet quorum, Chair Andrea Matrosovs suggested informally moving to Agenda item C. Matters for Discussion and C.1 Road signage maps discussion with the Cycling Group, as the members of the Regional Cycling Focus Group were in attendance. She noted approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes will follow later in the meeting when quorum is met with the arrival of additional AGAC members.

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Roadside Signage maps discussion with Cycling Group

Ryan Gibbons, Director of Community Service spoke noting the September 19th meeting of the Regional Cycling Focus Group just ended and several members are present. He noted today's conversation is in follow-up to the August 15, 2019 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting wherein it was proposed to have the next meeting align with the Regional Cycling Focus Group meeting.

He advised the Regional Cycling Focus Group is continuing to work on communication messages for cycling and road safety in participation with Simcoe County, Grey County, OPP and MTO. Ryan reported talking with Grey County regarding Grey County roads noting discussion will continue with Grey County Tourism and Brian Plumstead, Tourism Manager.

Ryan referred to signage that includes multiple vehicles; an image of a cyclist, a vehicle and a piece of farm equipment. The potential for misinterpreting the image was discussed noting it could be interpreted as acceptable for the three moving vehicles to travel abreast.

Ryan noted Bill is doing work with bicycle counters and that he is working with Brian and Grey County Tourism to capture cyclist and migrant worker data. He noted that once the other areas in the Town of The Blue Mountains are identified, it will clarify what sign content will be needed. He noted some signs show a vehicle and a cyclist but would like to consider an agricultural vehicle.

Andrea referred to signage in a few spots noting they have been well received by the Grey County Farm Association. She concurred that multiple images could be confusing. She noted the importance of conveying the correct message.

John Ardiel, AGAC member, noted there is only so much information that can be put on a sign. He referred to shoulders being paved as cycle lanes, that cyclists are not using them, riding side-by-side, holding up traffic and are not courteous. He noted the County is spending money on cycle lanes, so cyclists should please use them. Ryan clarified noting he believes the majority are paved shoulders and are not cycling lanes. Ryan suggested Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation, Grey County provide an explanation. Pat referred to having respect for the road and getting to the right as far as safe to do so. He noted a cyclist does not have to use a paved shoulder. He referred to getting the message out about behaviours that disturb motorists and cyclists. He noted a cyclist is not going to win a standoff with a vehicle. He noted while frustrating a key message is to be courteous. Brian asked John if he can see who the cyclists with John noting there is no consistency in that some are courteous, and others don't care.

As a motorist, Andrea referred to situations involving dangerous situations with cyclists. Ryan noted these are the things we are hearing about, which suggests the need for consistent messaging with the agricultural community, MTO, Simcoe etc. He noted the goal is to have everyone commit to the same message and noted respect on the roads will take time.

Nancy Griffin, AGAC member asked for clarity on where the cyclists should be. The response was in single file and on the paved shoulder as far to the right as possible.

Brian referred to being as far to the right as practicable noting that when vehicles are coming up from behind, cyclists should also be in single file. It was noted that more space may be needed in situations with gravel and that getting as far to the right as possible will depend on the conditions of the road, gravel etc.

Brian referred to the use of hearing and mirrors. John concurred noting that mirrors are good but questioned the appropriateness of his personal practice of a polite tap on the horn to increase awareness. He noted he does this to be courteous so that riders can be cautious but noted the horn can be misinterpreted and poorly received.

Duncan McKinlay, Agricultural Advisory Committee member arrived at 5:25 p.m.

Regional Cycling Focus Group member, Bill Abbots referred to paved shoulders on Grey Road 13, 10th, Heathcote, Clark Street and some in front of Tomahawk and on 19. He noted he could speak to numerous dangers for cyclists and relay stories from a cyclist's perspective. He referred to slippery "road snakes" in the pavement, transports driving 80 in a 50 zone and forcing cyclists off the road into the gravel etc. He concurred there is a need for balance and mutual respect and agreed it is difficult to get the message out.

With regard to the "road snakes" on County Roads, Pat noted the process used allows for the removal of water and that the next alternative would be grinding. He noted the "road snake" process is the most cost effective. While there is no other substance, he referred to micro surfaces and noted he will look into alternative methods for sealing.

Andrea spoke suggesting the goal is to get everyone on the same page. She provided some insight into the inherent dangers for cyclists as experienced by her husband who is an active cyclist. Trying to come up with a solution, she noted the Committee also worries about the migrant workers. It was questioned if agricultural vehicles should also be moving as far to the right as possible. It was noted that rough shoulders make it unsafe for some agricultural vehicles and perhaps that question could be asked of the agricultural community. She concurs part of the goal will be in common messaging.

Duncan questioned the County's plans for the resurfacing of roads and asked if going forward, their plan still envisions a paved shoulder when roads are being resurfaced. Pat responded that paved shoulders on all roads for cyclists, pedestrians etc. He spoke about determining where is the road where we need to maximize the platform; trying to adhere to cycling and maximize paved shoulders everywhere. He noted the biggest source of accidents is the drop-off. Duncan spoke questioning a possible change in the design. He noted Castle Glenn where cyclists don't use the paved shoulder because of the stones. He suggested if there has been any though re a 2.5 meter climb going up and lesser going down. He noted lots of bikes are going 60-70 km/hr. and perhaps it is a waste of asphalt on the downhill run. Pat noted cyclists have different levels of expertise and we don't have cycling lanes as impossible to maintain. Sweeping the shoulders is done in the early part of the year. Reference was made to the 10th line and that it should be paved. John Ardiel, AAC member referred to the "snakes" and filling in the cracks. He noted the repair is not good as there are dangerous edges. He noted he doesn't believe Grey Road 2 is on the books to be resurfaced. Pat noted he was not sure of the plan. Reference was made to Ravenna to Clarksburg and Grey Road 10 south. Ryan offered to work with Pat Hoy.

John noted the messaging is very important and to get the message not only to cyclists but everyday users. He questioned how far the community goes to support cyclist initiatives until a better rapport is established. He noted they are the new people to the party and if they are respectful, then motorists and the agricultural community will give that respect back.

John strongly recommended the County, or the municipality put cycling licensing in place. He noted a cyclist generally has no identification but with licensing, they would be in the system. Ryan question if we should sit with the OPP and MTO so they can share information and to secure feedback. He noted messaging is very focused on the cyclists. He noted most communication is from the motorist, but cyclists are the most vulnerable.

Ryan noted the collection of postal codes and regional data to identify where they are coming from is in place and with other group event organizers who will be approached to help in the messaging e.g. Gran Fondo Centurion and Sea Otter.

Andrea noted she likes aiming toward common language. She noted with 2 million visitors not all are necessarily on the same page and that it is not just the cyclists but the drivers too. She noted she expects we will always have a struggle, but more signage will provide a presence.

Andrea asked if there were any questions from the floor. Seeing none, John asked if there were any comments from the Town's By-law staff and noted a comment from the OPP would put some perspective on it. Ryan noted the OPP is an active part of the cycling group. Andrea suggested an invitation. Ryan will follow up.

Duncan directed a comment to the County representatives noting that the role of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to Council. There were no items identified by the County representatives in response to Duncan's inquiry if there were any road related items they wished to identify that the Committee should be advocating for.

Duncan recalled attending an OPP Agricultural Meeting in Council Chambers in the past and recalled if a farmer pulled off on the gravel shoulder, they could be charged with careless driving related to the creation of a third lane. He noted on Highway 26 they can stay on the road but on 19, the cyclists pass on both sides, which creates some friction. Andrea questioned how far is safe to the right re farm equipment. It was suggested there be a dialogue with the OPP for cyclists and perhaps take the question back to the farm association. Duncan suggested that there will probably be new people in the agricultural community on the farm associations. Ryan noted he is sure the OPP will come to speak but noted they will only speak on enforcement and not things relative to MTO. It was noted with recent cuts, the MTO is not available for meetings, but by teleconferencing. Ryan noted he would be happy to coordinate with the OPP and MTO and will confirm. Andrea noted it is a good time to set up a model that other areas in Grey could use.

Chair Andrea Matrosovs called for a close to this portion of the meeting (Agenda Item C.1 Roadside Signage maps discussion with Cycling Group) and called for a five minute break. She extended thanks to the members of the Regional Cycling Focus Group and those from Grey County, and staff present as well, for attending.

A. Call to Order

Chair Andrea Matrosovs called the second half of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting to order noting quorum was achieved.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Nancy Griffin Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Agenda of September 19, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Agricultural Advisory Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None declared.

- **Previous Minutes (August 15, 2019)**

Moved by: John Ardiel Seconded by: Lynn Vail

THAT the Minutes of August 15, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

- **Business Arising from the Minutes of August 15, 2019**

B.2 Public Comment Period

Chair Andrea Matrosovs noted questions submitted at the August 15, 2019 meeting during the Public Comment period were submitted to Pat Hoy, Director of Transportation, Grey County. A more elaborated response from the County is expected for the next meeting.

C.1 Follow up regarding Wild Chervil – Wayne Dewitt

Andrea referred to the revision for the Questions & Answers regarding Wild Chervil and asked if anything was missed. She noted we will want to ensure the revised content is included on the post card communication piece. Reference was made to the process for dealing with Wild Chervil on private land. Andrea suggested circling back when on the agenda re Q&A on the website.

C.4 Correspondence

Referring to the resolution passed at the July 15, 2019 Council meeting wherein Council acknowledged receipt of a June 17, 2019 Council Resolution from the Township of Warwick regarding enforcement for safety on family farms and that Council refer the resolution to the AGCC and to the Grey County Farm Safety Association for review and recommendation back to Council, Andrea noted that due to the Council Break, only previous minutes were looked at during the September meeting and she is waiting for it to come forward. She referred to a tighter COW schedule next year which will alleviate some of the time delays. The August AGAC minutes note that Andrea took this resolution to the GCFSA. The group did not do a formal response as it was discussed at other association meetings and the other associations are compiling responses.

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

No Deputations

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Sustainability Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters.

No Comments

B.3 Staff Reports

B.3.1 2020 – 2022 Budget, FAF.19.155

Sam Dinsmore, Deputy Treasurer/Manager of Accounting and Budgets spoke to Staff Report FAF.155 outlining the process for the Committee to request budgetary items for the 2020 budget and forecasted items for the 2021 and 2022 budgets. He noted he needs direction at this meeting or the October meeting for budget content that will go before Council at the end of January.

Andrea asked the members if there were any items they can think of for next year, recognizing they may need some time to think this over.

Duncan spoke about using the power of the Town by having a weed inspector through Bylaw Enforcement. He noted there would be more staff involvement re inspecting private property. Sam noted to answer that in a different way, he noted that staffing resources will have to be put on staffing potential re the need for resources. He suggested there should be a fee or fine associated and levied. Duncan spoke about monitoring and having bylaw report re workload and need for additional resources. Sam referred to the tracking of complaints and suggested yes, for 2020.

Duncan referred to Town and County road allowances noting they are a haven for weeds and roadside brush encroaching the right of way. He questioned the control of weeds and brush in the Town's road allowance and if the works department needs additional resources or funding. Sam responded noting that on an item like that, Finance would work with Jim re new or increased funding in his budget, which would then be endorsed by the AGAC. He noted he will talk to Jim re the dollar value.

Duncan referred to Parks doing work for the Georgian Trail Association. He noted the need to cut up Town trees that have fallen into farms on the road allowance. Sam noted he will discuss re Roads. He referred to ash trees noting they are going to die and that we will see items in the 2020 budget re how to tackle the disease and the increased amount of money needed. He noted this would also seek endorsement from the AGAC.

Andrea referred to the Sustainability Committee and a sub-committee regarding tree preservation and enhancement. She noted looking at the sustainable advantages of looking after Ash trees.

John referred to projects and allotted dollars and questioned if the AGAC asked Bylaw to investigate a bicycle licensing system, re discussion earlier about taking steps to make things safer. He noted the research to put with the request may take one person's time for a few months. Sam suggested this was a great idea and referred to identifying more staff resources.

The form in the Staff Report was discussed and the timeline to populate the chart. Sam suggested the best way to handle the wording will be for him to prepare and then bring it back to the October or November meeting to receive AGAC endorsement. Andrea advised Sam to feel free to forward him any commentary and she will assist.

John ask about taking a copy to the Transportation Committee to add to their agenda for an upcoming meeting. Sam noted the idea of getting Bylaw working on transportation so he will outline, or their budget sheet will.

AGAC member, Nancy Griffin spoke about stewarding the land and having events to welcome people to the Town of The Blue Mountains and suggested events such as a speaker from the University of Guelph. The concept of a Welcome Package with an agricultural component was referenced. As a suggestion, Sam suggested the AGAC have a budget amount available to Tim Hendry, Economic Development and Communications Coordinator. Sam noted he will talk to Tim regarding what costs may be involved.

Andrea noted there is also a need for a Welcome to Rural Blue Mountains and perhaps hosting an event with an agricultural component could be considered. Duncan spoke suggesting that to host our own event is a pile of work and that he would like to discuss an event becoming part of a Town event e.g. Rural Life Orientation Package, market, Farm Safety & Machinery etc. and joint events , It was suggested that Grey Bruce Farmers week is a good way to reach non-farmers. Andrea referred to the discussions noting we are all stewards of rural Blue Mountains e.g. book Ravenna Hall, met your neighbors and hear an interesting speaker to those sharing rural space. It was

questioned how Council looks at in kind rental of facilities. It was suggested to include in the budget in the event Council did not agree to in kind.

Ryan noted in 2020 it will be the 150th Anniversary of the Fair and suggested this as an idea for joint events. Andrea suggested having some committee presence and not just load that weekend with a speaker. Lyn suggested a booth at the landfill site. Duncan suggested the event could be a target time to roll out the orientation package as the Fall Fair might be a soft target for rural orientation and with the Fall Fair a year from now, could work towards. Andrea suggested to continue with Sam to put in items and to dialogue with Staff and brick back. She asked the committee to email her with any new ideas.

Duncan noted that an item of concern to farmers, documented or not, is roadside drainage. If the ditch gets full, it becomes a conduit and the water goes into the farmer's field. He noted this could be in the budget, for this grade of town roads. In time of austerity, Council got down to 4" drop which was a huge job all summer for the contractor to get caught up. He noted people are coming to him questioning if the Town is getting behind with the ditches. He suggested different farmers have mentioned this him, as a farmer who speaks to other farmers. He noted he hears from the rural community about being caught up re gravel, but there is a problem re accumulated silt in the ditches.

Sam noted he will work with Jim McCannell and the budget ideas to take to Council and reference endorsement by AGCA. He noted he will work with Andrea and come back next month. He noted he will also work with Jim and Ryan. He suggested the AGCC could endorse any resolutions next month.

The committee made several suggestions for a motion regarding bicycle licensing. Sam suggested if the Transportation Committee said no, it might an idea for the AGAC to ask the Bylaw Staff to prepare the workplan and then Council can direct the Transportation Committee.

Moved by: John Ardiel Seconded by: Duncan McKinlay

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee ask Council to explore the feasibility of implementing a bicycle licensing system.

Moved by: John Ardiel Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report FAF.19.155 titled, 2020 to 2022 Budget and that the Agricultural Advisory Committee direct the Chair to work with Staff to on what to include in the 2020-2022 budget and bring same back to the October AGAC meeting. Carried

C. Matters for Discussion

C.1 Follow up regarding Cycling Safety Group – Ryan Gibbons

This item was moved forward on the agenda during the meeting as previously noted in the minutes.

C.2 Follow up regarding Wild Chervil and Questions from Member of the Public regarding Truivist Spraying – Wayne DeWitt, By-Law Enforcement/Municipal Prosecutor

Wayne Dewitt to follow up on question: Is there a resource available to define the area that can be sprayed for Wild Chervil?

Wayne Dewitt, Supervisor, By-Law Enforcement/Municipal Prosecutor advised that in addition to discussion at the last meeting, the Long Grass and Noxious Weeds By-law will include Wild Chervil. He noted it will be on a complaint basis, unless this Committee request Council to have a resource to actively enforce the Bylaw, once the Property Standards is enacted which he noted will probably be early in the new year.

Andrea questioned if it will be enacted before the growing season; can recommend to Council that for the season have a resource actively identifying places for the contractor. Andrea asked the Committee for their comment.

Duncan asked if this Committee needs to recommend extra resources and would there be consideration for resources laid out when implemented? Wayne noted it can be enforced once the Property Standards Bylaw is in place. Andrea referred to passing a resolution to Council to recommend they consider additional resources to effectively deal with Wild Chervil. Wayne suggested it could be a student over a two month period on public and private lands. John questioned whether it should be a student. Wayne clarified suggesting a University Agricultural Studies Student.

Wayne referred to a letter and surcharge paper work. The owner would get a notice and time to comply; time to clean-up. Andrea noted a concern re Wild Chervil noting the delicate window re spreading and concern with a timeframe and the number of days to comply. Andrea asked if the process would allow for someone to come out, in five days receive the letter and if the owner deals with it before the letter, is Bylaw encouraged to knock on their door. Wayne noted in some cases, would go back to discuss before the letter.

Moved by: Duncan McKinlay

Seconded by: Nancy Griffin

THAT Council consider additional resources to implement the “Chervil” program portion of the Long Grass/Weed section of the pending Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw with a focus on education and co-operative compliance.

Discussion about the motion took place with John questioning Duncan if there is another weed that should be identified. Duncan noted Hogweed/Wild Parsnip and noted because we are talking about Chervil, his suggestion is to keep the focus on Chervil. He offered, however, that if someone comes to Bylaw about another weed, it doesn't mean any other weed would not be considered. Wayne noted the Bylaw does

not have to affect agriculture. Ryan noted that at the last meeting James McKinlay referred to parsnip; can take to Bylaw.

The motion was carried.

John spoke about the Property Standards Bylaw. He asked when drafts will be available for the budget. Wayne noted his expectation is January/February.

Referring to Wild Chervil, Andrea asked the Committee to look at the Q&A on the website and if anyone has noticed anything that should be added, to let her know. Andrea noted she will send it back out as more information to the public, or resources we can link to so she can send to the proper staff.

C.3 Township of Warwick Enforcement for Safety on Family Farms Follow-up

This item was referred to earlier at A. Business Arising from the Minutes of August 15, 2019 at A.4 Correspondence.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Dan Carter, CEO Canadian Hemp Framers Alliance Re: Municipal Sustainable Development Goals Plan

Note: This correspondence was previously provided to the Sustainability Committee.

Andrea referred to the ask in the letter suggesting it was more of a sustainability letter than an Agricultural Advisory Committee item. Discussed hemp and hemp grown in Canada. Andrea noted she wanted to ask if there is something we need to do as the Sustainability Committee is also looking at this.

Nancy suggested contacting Dan to ask if there is a local representative that would like to speak to the committees (Agricultural, Sustainability and Economic Development). Reference was made to a roster of local speakers. Andrea referred to Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance.

E.1 New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to the Agenda

None

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

Land Use Planners for Farmers (October 17, 2019)

Ryan noted the Planning Department is circulating a memo re land use. Duncan had asked a question of Planners re the type of construction permitted on agricultural properties; a Planner will attend the next AGAC meeting.

Duncan referred to the Property Standards Bylaw and inviting to the Planning Services Open House. He referred to getting the nuances in and noted if there is good clarity, there is no problem for the farming community. Discussed inviting to the open house to deliberate or have a draft sent re the Property Standards bylaw. Andrea asked if we need to ask for the draft. Ryan suggested it doesn't hurt to provide formal direction to Staff as it will make it very clear.

A. Adjournment

Moved by: John Ardiel

Seconded by:

Nancy Griffin

THAT The Agricultural Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 6:04 p.m. to meet again on October 17, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. or at the call of the Chair.

Carried