



Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Haldimand County Administration Building

November 20, 2019

Present: Councillor Metcalfe, Henk Lise (Chair), Stuart Heeg (Vice-Chair), Ron Young, Richard Blyleven, Nick Kinkel (OMAFRA), Jordan Fowler, Rick Armstrong, Lorrie Minshall (LPRCA), Bruce Armstrong

Staff: Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Alison Earls Senior Economic Development Officer & Breanna Beauchamp, Division Support.

Regrets: Stephanie Campbell-Heron

1. Welcome and Introduction

Meeting called to order by Chair Henk Lise at 6:09 p.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

2. Council Update

Councillor Metcalfe provided an update on Council activities including road maintenance, the upcoming demolition of the old fire hall and library in Cayuga, Caledonia bridge updates, and status of the move into the new Cayuga Administration building.

Councillor Metcalfe brought forward the issue of fleabane to the committee. He noted other local farmers have raised concern about this weed affecting surrounding crops.

A discussion then ensued.

3. Rural Water Quality Project

L. Heyming then presented a Rural Water Quality Projects for the committee's approval.

File # 105- Tree Planting project was presented.

Moved By B. Armstrong, and seconded by R. Young that the project be approved totaling \$1612.00 at 6:22 pm.

APPROVED

L. Heyming also highlighted the following upcoming workshop:

- OMAFRA Soil Sampling and Fertility Workshops

The committee demonstrated interest in expanding the scope of the Rural Water Quality project to include soil and nutrient practices.

Motion by B. Armstrong and R. Young for staff to investigate the potential of including a Crop Nutrient Planning category to the Rural Water Quality Program 6:26 pm.

APPROVED

4. Farmers Profile Presentation

A conference call was initiated with guest speaker Michael Swidersky, who spoke on community pastures, and his experience with this program in Grey Dufferin. Key highlights included:

- In 2019, Grey Dufferin had 15 different owners on the community pasture. 50 head max on the farm \$15 per head charge. Other pastures have straight daily head charge. Maximum 50 heads per owner.
- Minimum amount of land needed for a community pasture. Typically in Ontario is 200-2,000 acres.
- Allow the ability to share the labor unit, and help young farmers succeed.

A discussion then ensued.

5. Hazard Land Mapping Update

Lorrie Minshall from the LPRCA provided an update on the Hazard Land Mapping. L. Minshall distributed maps of the affected areas. The LRPCA had sent out notices of commencement and advertised in municipal newspapers of all upcoming public information centers.

It was noted that the committee felt that proper notification of public information centers was not well executed by the LRPCA, and information should at least be distributed to all agricultural groups moving forward.

A discussion then ensued.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by. R. Young and seconded by S. Heeg that that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated September 18, 2019 be approved as presented at 7:16 pm.

APPROVED

7. Business Arising

H. Lise provided an update on The Emily Project. He noted he had been in contact with Lianne Park from Haldimand County's Emergency Services Division to discuss this project. L. Romanuk recommended that the HFA work directly with Haldimand County's Emergency Services Division on the coordination of this project.

8. Tree Cutting By-Law

A. Earls provided information on the status of the updated tree cutting by-law from Facility, Parks, Cemetery and Forestry operations staff. The by-law has been written and is currently under legal review. The by-law will be brought forward to this committee and other stakeholders once completed.

9. EDT Update

A. Earls provided an EDT Update, key highlights included:

- Tourism website tentative completion
- Encouraging businesses to update their Google business listings
- 2019 Municipal Agriculture Conference overview.

A. Earls then provided information on upcoming funding opportunities related to the agricultural sector including Canadian Agricultural Partnership: OMAFRA Pasteurization training and the OSCIA cost share funding program.

10. New Business

J. Fowler provided details on a recent conversation he had with staff from Haldimand County Solid Waste division. He was advised that company called ThinkPlastics will accept some debris on the bale wrap plastics.

A discussion then ensued.

L. Romanuk provided an update on the Cayuga Administration building move, and future meeting locations. The Committee will continue to be informed from the Economic Development & Tourism division if there are any location changes prior to the meeting date.

11. Adjourned at 7:59 pm

12. Next Meeting

January 15th, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm
Haldimand County Administration Building 45 Munsee Street North.