



Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Haldimand County Administration Building
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 6:00 pm

Present: Mayor Bentley, Richard Blyleven, Dan Court, Neil Hedley, Stuart Heeg, Henk Lise.

Guests: Louise Heyming (Grand River Conservation Authority) and Paul Gagnon (Long Point Regional Conservation Authority).

Staff: Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development and Tourism, Kris Franklin, Manager of Engineering and Capital Works, Jessica Easson, Senior Economic Development Officer and Chloe Donaldson, Administrative Assistant.

Regrets: Cody Snyder, Kevin VanderSpek, Christine Wilkinson.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Meeting called to order by Chair Neil Hedley at 6:03 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by H. Lise and seconded by S. Heeg that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated May 15th, 2024 be approved as presented at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVED

4. Rural Water Quality Projects

File #95 – Erosion Control

Proposal to install three water and sediment basins in areas that are described as gullies to improve land usage.

Moved by D. Court, and seconded by H. Lise that the project be approved totaling \$5000 at 6:20 pm.

APPROVED

File #135 – Well Decommission

Proposal to decommission 70+ year old water well that is 60 feet deep, 4 inches in diameter and located in a shed.

Moved by H. Lise, and seconded by S. Heeg that the project be approved totaling \$1000 at 6:25 pm.

APPROVED

File #136 – Tree Planting

Proposal for approximately 0.5 acres of block planting and approximately 180 meters of buffer planting. The planting would consist of approximately 162 native tree species.

The committee discussed considerations for planting setbacks.

Moved by H. Lise, and seconded by S. Heeg that the project be approved totaling \$4756 at 6:32 pm.

APPROVED

File #137 – Tree Planting

Proposal of 8000 seedlings planting project including windbreaks and block plantings.

Discussion touched on concerns regarding the proximity to wind turbines.

Moved by D. Court, and seconded by S. Heeg that the project be conditionally approved totaling \$5000 subject to the approval of the windmill operator on the property at 6:40 pm.

APPROVED

5. Traffic Management Study

K. Franklin presented a summary of the Traffic Management Study, identified as a Council priority. Discussion included the project's progress, engineering methods to control traffic, enforcement mechanisms and public feedback.

The committee noted concerns about high speed traffic and lack of respect to share the road with farm equipment. K. Franklin noted that a report will likely be brought to Council in early 2025 providing an update on the Study findings.

Further discussion ensued.

6. Terms of Reference Update

S. Trimble from the Clerks division shared an overview about updating the committee's terms of reference (TOR). Key drivers are to standardize TORs across committees, meet accessibility standards and improve staff processes.

Discussion ensued.

Moved by H. Lise, and seconded by D. Court to defer the Terms of Reference decision to the next meeting at 7:48 pm to ensure all committee members are able to provide comments.

DEFERRED

7. Council Update

Mayor Bentley provided a Council update, highlights included:

- Traffic Management Study
- Ward Boundary Review Strategy
- Community and Recreation Facility Strategy
- A reminder about the upcoming Job Fair on October 17 at the Caledonia Fairgrounds;
- Council recently attended the AMO conference and connected with the OFA.
- Request the committee share issues to bring forward at ROMA as Council prepares and requests delegations with Ministers.
- Sunday gun hunting was recently brought forward to Council and was not supported by Council.

8. Council Presentation

As per the committee's TORs, the committee should report to council yearly, L. Romanuk proposed that the committee Chair comes forward on January 14th to provide a 10 minute presentation to Council. Committee members are to bring forward ideas to include in the Council presentation at the November meeting.

9. EDT Update

- J. Easson shared an update on the Communications plan – Over 1000 “*Slow down and share the road*” magnets were order to be distributed at libraries, farmers markets, this committee and at meet your local farmer at the Caledonia fair.
- EDT confirmed that the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee (BDAPAC) agreed to sponsor the AgScape on November 27th – an event to educate local students about career in agriculture. AAC members are welcome to attend the event, but must first register with EDT.
- L. Romanuk shared EDT is working with SOAR and GEBC to hold the Job Fair on October 17, 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Caledonia Fairgrounds (BDAPAC priority) and encouraged the committee to share information with their networks. This will be a free event will and will include a transportation option across the County for those without access to a vehicle.

10. New Business

New business was raised regarding educating the public on farm emergencies and concerns for loose livestock. The committee discussed working with EMS to spread awareness on what to do in an emergency. Concerns were also raised regarding loose cattle wandering around a neighborhood with no proper fencing.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm, moved by D. Court seconded by H. Lise.

12. Next Meeting and Action Items

Action Items:

- EDT to coordinate EMS attendance at the next meeting to discuss a safety flyer and provide feedback
- L. Romanuk to reach out to Manager of Enforcement to discuss livestock keeping policies
- Committee members to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming Council presentation

Next Meeting: November 20th, 2024 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm