



Municipality of Mississippi Mills

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, January 28, 2021

12:30 p.m.

E-participation

	Pages
A. CALL TO ORDER	
B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF	
C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Recommended Motion: THAT the agenda be approved as presented.	
D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Recommended Motion: THAT the Agriculture Advisory Committee minutes dated February 24, 2020 be approved.	2 - 4
E. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS None	
F. REPORTS None	
G. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS	5 - 6
G.1. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - Drainage Act Amendments Received for Information	
H. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE	
I. ROUND TABLE	
J. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS	
K. ADJOURNMENT	

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Monday, February 24, 2020 @ 12:30 P.M.

Municipal Office, 3131 Old Perth Road, Almonte

PRESENT: Brenda Cochran
Lorne Heslop
Merlin Knapton
Scott Sigurdson
Councillor Bev Holmes

STAFF: Niki Dwyer, Director of Planning
Jeanne Harfield, Clerk

REGRETS: Paul Crozier

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the Agenda dated February 11, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**B. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR GENERAL NATURE
THEREOF**

None were declared.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Merlin Knapton

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the Minutes dated February 11, 2020 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Wild Parsnip Management

The Committee discussed a variety of mechanical removal options for the treatment of Wild Parsnip in front of organic farms, which were previously identified by the Committee.

It was noted that there is a required 8m buffer of no-spray zone around organic farms and that this may need to be factored into a linear setback measured from the property line of the organic farms.

**Moved by Scott Sigurdson
Seconded by Merlin Knapton**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends to Council that with respect to organic farming, a pilot project be undertaken to mechanically remove Wild Parsnip from the frontages of up to 13 organic farms in the community, plus an 8m buffer from each corner of the property lines, representing approximately 10.5 linear kilometres of road.

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that mechanical removal of Wild Parsnip should include the most economical means of either hand pulling or traditional mechanical removal to be determined on a case by case basis by the Municipality in consultation with the impacted organic farmer, and that an additional levy to be borne by the property owner may apply.

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council explore the costing of hand removal for a light infestation of Wild Parsnip as a pilot project for organic farms.

CARRIED

**Moved by Merlin Knapton
Seconded by Scott Sigurdson**

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider verifying that all mapping, agricultural or otherwise, is accurate and true, particularly noting the areas of Clayton Lake Road and Concession 1 Ramsay.

CARRIED

F. INFO/CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. ROUNDTABLE:

The Committee also discussed the identification and classification of farming in the Community of Mississippi Mills and how the Committee can promote and support the Agricultural Community through a self-identification program for farms who do not qualify for certification by OFA.

Lorne suggested the following:

- The Committee should be teaching itself about Land Evaluation Area Reviews;
- The Leeds Grenville and Lanark Food Core is interested in Municipalities adopting Food Charters in order to highlight the importance of food and food production;
- Soil Crop Improvement Association has launched a tool called ALICE which gives the farmer the ability to move property in and out of productive form without financial loss;
- MVCA is working on a Watershed Plan which may have impacts on agricultural operations.

Scott suggested that the Municipality adopt an “Open Farm Day” as a collaborative effort to raise interest and awareness about where and how food is produced.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT

To be determined.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Merlin Knapton

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

CARRIED



Niki Dwyer, Recording Secretary

**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs**

Office of the Minister

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3
Tel: 416-326-3074
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA

**Ministère de l'Agriculture, de
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales**

Bureau du ministre

77, rue Grenville, 11^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3
Tél. : 416 326-3074
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO



December 16, 2020

Kurt Greaves
CAO/Deputy-Clerk
County of Lanark
kgreaves@lanarkcounty.ca

Dear Kurt Greaves:

In order to help farm businesses and municipalities save time and money, the Ontario government is posting a discussion paper on a new regulatory proposal to implement recent amendments to the Drainage Act, which received Royal Assent on July 21, 2020, as part of Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act.

The proposed regulation supports the government's commitment to reduce burden and promote economic development while maintaining effective environmental standards. A discussion paper will be posted on Ontario's Regulatory and Environmental Registry for a 60-day public comment period from December 9 2020 to February 7, 2021 and can be accessed on the Environmental Registry at this website address:
www.ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2814.

Drainage is critical for supporting agricultural productivity and the production of food. It enables sector growth by delivering economic benefits such as improved crop productivity and flood control, while supporting environmental benefits such as nutrient loss reduction, reduced soil erosion and habitat protection. That is why I encourage you to submit your comments on the proposed regulation and let your perspective on this important matter be known as we finalize this regulation.

My ministry will be hosting webinars for key stakeholders who play an important role or who have an interest in the Drainage Act and the recent changes. The webinars are scheduled for:

- January 7, 10:00-11:30 am: Municipalities/Drainage Industry
- January 8, 10:00-11:30 am: Environmental Groups, Indigenous Communities, Conservation Authorities and the public
- January 12, 2:00-3:30 pm: Municipalities/Drainage Industry
- January 14, 2:00-3:30 pm: Municipalities/Drainage Industry
- January 15, 2:00-3:30 pm: General Farm Organizations



Good things grow in Ontario
À bonne terre, bons produits

Ministry Headquarters: 1 Stone Road West, Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2
Bureau principal du ministère: 1 Stone Road West, Guelph (Ontario) N1G 4Y2

To register, please complete the registration form at this website, <https://survey.clicktools.com/app/survey/go.jsp?iv=1yoz6wboh3a0f>, or contact the Agricultural Information Contact Centre (AICC) by email to ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca or you can call 1-877-424-1300.

Although the webinars are targeted to specific audiences, you are welcome to enroll at a time or date that better suits your schedule. Printed copies of the French Discussion Paper are also available from the AICC on request.

I look forward to learning the results of the consultation and your contribution to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Hardeman', written over a large, faint circular watermark or background.

Ernie Hardeman
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

COVID-19 Reminders

- Practise physical distancing – stay 2 metres away from others in public
- Wash your hands – with soap and water thoroughly and often
- Get the facts - www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread