

**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

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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**



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Niki Dwyer, Recording Secretary