

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

Thursday, January 30, 2020 @ 12:30 P.M.

Municipal Office, 3131 Old Perth Road, Almonte

PRESENT: Brenda Cochran
Lorne Heslop
Merlin Knaption (left at 1:39 pm)
Scott Sigurdson
Councillor Bev Holmes

STAFF: Jeanne Harfield, Acting Clerk
Ken Kelly, CAO
Abby Armstrong, Environmental Compliance Coordinator

REGRETS: Paul Crozier

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Merlin Knaption

Seconded by Councillor Bev Holmes

THAT the Agenda dated January 30, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

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

None were declared.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of October 8, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Committee be approved.

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Wild Parsnip Management

Abby Armstrong, Environmental Compliance Coordinator

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator provided an overview of the proposed 2020 Wild Parsnip as well as the 2018 and 2019 initiatives regarding Wild Parsnip. Other items highlighted included: the 2020 proposed map for spraying; overview of previous years; methodology; changes to the plan; opt-out, adopt a road and the pollinator pilot project.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Wild Parsnip Management

The Committee discussed potential impacts of spot spraying or boom spraying within the buffer of certified organic farms. Spraying of any kind within an 8-meter buffer of an organic farm is not tolerated.

Alternative options discussed included:

- Pollinator plan project (long term solution)
- Mowing – makes little impact on eradicating the infestation but impedes its growth (would be ongoing solution)
- Ditches made more ready – to allow farmers to be able to access the ditches to mow
- Reverting to mechanical controls in organic farms
- Manual removal by summer students
- Increased ditching in-front of organic farm operations

Members discussed the potential cost of mechanically removing wild parsnip in the ditches in front of organic farming operations; spraying near waterways, contacting organic farmers regarding the mapping; Clayton Lake Road; including mapping of where Lanark County spraying will occur on County Roads within Mississippi Mills, and costing of mechanical removal (hand removal).

The Committee recessed at 1:39 p.m. and resumed at 1:50 p.m.

Moved by Scott Sigurdson

Seconded by Lorne Heslop

THAT the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend that Council authorize members of the Agriculture Advisory Committee to communicate directly with identified organic farmers in Mississippi Mills regarding proposed wild parsnip management options as well as mapping information;

AND THAT the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommend that Council authorize the Agriculture Advisory Committee to submit comments directly to the Environmental Compliance Coordinator regarding preferred methods of wild parsnip management on land directly abutting organic farming operations.

CARRIED

F. INFO/CORRESPONDENCE

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: changes to the *Drainage Act*.
Webinar on February 7th.

G. ROUNDTABLE:

Brenda Cochran – Bill 156 Animal Activists Trespassing onto farming property.
OFA is looking for support from municipalities.

Lorne Heslop – Terms of References for Advisory Committees – ability for
Committees to identify issues themselves.

H. ANNOUNCEMENT

Next meeting February 11, 2020 at 12:30 pm

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

CARRIED

Jeanne Harfield, Recording Secretary