

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

Tuesday, February 11, 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
Cory Smith, Public Works Technologist
Abby Armstrong, Environmental Compliance Coordinator

REGRETS: Paul Crozier

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Merlin Knapton

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 Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Merlin Knapton

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

CARRIED

D. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Wild Parsnip Management

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator provided answers to specific questions she had received prior to the meeting from the committee related to the operation of the Wild Parsnip program. It was noted that all questions received from either the committee or public will be included in the staff report provided to Committee of the Whole.

During discussion members provided feedback and comments which included: opt out contract; results of organic farming identifications (National Farmers Union and Ontario Farm Association designations); cost associated with manual removal; and best practices (Sugar Bush Rd.)

The Public Works Technologist provided an overview of the GIS “dashboard” used to identify, track and monitor wild parsnip reports on the Municipal right of ways.

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee received the organic farmer mapping and identification information presented by Scott Sigurdson;

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee acknowledges that there are 13 organic farms, the majority of which are identified by NFU or OFA, occupying 1591 acres of land and 10.45km of road frontage in the Municipality of Mississippi Mills;

CARRIED

2. Proposed Changes to the Drainage Act

The Members discussed the proposed areas of change and noted that the amendments are generally considered to be positive and non-controversial.

Moved by Lorne Heslop

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee considers the changes proposed in the discussion paper to be positive and not controversial for the agricultural community and the Municipality of Mississippi Mills;

AND THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends that Council send correspondence to the Province supporting the proposed changes to the Drainage Act.

CARRIED

F. INFO/CORRESPONDENCE

None

G. ROUNDTABLE:

None

H. ANNOUNCEMENT

To be determined.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Merlin Knapton

Seconded by Scott Sigurdson

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

CARRIED



Niki Dwyer, Recording Secretary