



**Agricultural Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**Thursday, December 4, 2014**

**7:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

<p><b>Members Present:</b> Councillor Don Hamilton Ligia DeFilippis Guy Farintosh Ruth Brock Kim Empringham Bryant Hulshaf Richard Reesor Lynne Koss Paul Reesor</p> <p><b>Agency Representatives:</b> Sonia Dhir, TRCA Jason Ezer, York Region</p>	<p><b>Staff Present:</b> Ruth Rendon, Senior Natural Heritage Planner Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator Lilli Duoba, Manager Natural Heritage Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Candice Einstoss, York Region Public Health</p>
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The Agricultural Advisory Committee convened at 7:05 p.m. with Kim Empringham presiding as Chair.

**1. APPROVED MINUTES**

Moved by Ruth Brock

Seconded by Guy Farintosh

That the Minutes from the October 9, 2014, and the November 6, 2014, Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

## **2. 'SHARE THE ROAD' SIGNAGE REQUEST**

Lilli Duoba, Manager Natural Heritage provided an update on the Committee's requests to erect share the roads signs in Markham. The share the roads signs will not be erected until the spring due to the ground being frozen.

The Committee suggested that staff re-visit putting a sign on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Woodbine and Major Mackenzie in a few years or when the development in the area moves forward, as it was anticipated that farmers would need to move farm equipment along this roadway on a long term basis. This type of feedback could be provided as part of the public consultation process that will occur once the development moves forward.

The Committee approved the resolution from the memorandum on this matter (see Appendix A).

Moved by Bryant Hulshaf

Seconded by Lynne Koss

WHEREAS the Agricultural Advisory Committee have identified a potential opportunity to reduce potential road conflicts with farm vehicles and enhance overall safety through 'Share the Road' signage; and,

WHEREAS 'Share the Road' criteria have been prepared to identify appropriate locations for signage; and,

WHEREAS 'Share the Road' signage funding has been confirmed by the Operations, Business and Technical Services department within the Community and Fire Services Commission for the installation of up to 7 signs;

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends Council support for the installation of 7 'Share the Road' signs along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Elgin Mills Road at the following locations:

1. Elgin Mills Road at the south-east corner of McCowan Road (eastbound)
2. Elgin Mills Road at the north-west corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Line (westbound)
3. Elgin Mills Road at the south-east corner of Reesor Road (eastbound)
4. Elgin Mills Road at the north-west corner of Reesor Road (westbound)
5. South side of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Hwy 48 and 9<sup>th</sup> Line (eastbound)
6. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the south-east corner of Reesor Road (eastbound)
7. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the north-west corner of Reesor Road (westbound)

CARRIED

## **3. New Local Food Fund**

Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator reported that the Province of Ontario will now provide farmers with a 25% tax credit for local food donations. York Region has a list of food banks that accept donations. Prabh will be inviting local Food banks to come do a presentation on donating food and how

farmers can receive the tax credit. Farmers can also communicate with local food banks by going to the following website: <https://ontariofresh.ca/>

#### **4. Work Plan**

Lilli Duoba provided a presentation to facilitate the development of the Committee's 2015 work plan. The presentation included a review of the following:

- The mandate of Committee
- The scope of the Committee's activities
- The Committee's 2013/2014 activities

It was suggested that the Committee meet quarterly instead of monthly, if the Committee does not identify sufficient work plan items to be dealt with in 2015.

#### Discussion on 2015 Work Plan

The Committee discussed possible items for its 2015 work plan:

- Learning from other Agricultural Advisory groups within the Greater Toronto Area. It would be beneficial for the Committee to understand what types of agriculture initiatives/activities other municipalities are undertaking. Also, collaborate with other municipalities to make agriculture in York Region more cohesive.
  - Suggested adding an agenda item "York Region Agricultural Liaison Group"
  - Include York Region's Agriculture Liaison Group Minutes with the agenda package under correspondence
  - Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance can be invited to present on their initiatives in order to help identify shared agriculture concerns.
- Review and provide comments on the Province's review of the *Greenbelt Plan*, once released (Note: the timeframe for this item is unknown at this time)
- Educate the public on agriculture matters at the Markham Agriculture Fair by having a booth and creating a display board
- Prepare articles for Markham Life on agricultural matters in Markham (Action: Kim Empringham and Prabh Banga)
- Provide an update on Markham's topsoil pilot project and on how stockpiles are being monitored by inspectors
- Provide a presentation on the municipal tree by-law
- Look at promoting the legalities of dumping nuisance animals on agriculture lands and at getting more information on the matter from the OSPCA
- Invite a local food bank representative to provide a presentation on the types of food they need, and when and how they like to receive donations

- Investigate whether the City of Markham should be providing building permit fee exemptions for agriculture structures applications and if there is a way of streamlining the application process for these structures

The Committee will elect a new Chair in early 2015 when the new Councillor(s) and citizen appointments to the committee have been made.

There was a discussion on the loss of agriculture land in Ontario. Currently, 350 acres of agriculture land are lost to development every day in Ontario. If this pace continues all of the agriculture lands in Ontario would be gone in approximately 20 years. It was suggested that alternative ways to develop should be investigated.

The City must work under the parameters of the Province and York Region with respect to its Growth Plan. In order to preserve its agriculture lands, Markham choose to exceed its intensification requirements in its Growth Management Strategy to 2031.

#### **5. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Agriculture Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

#### **6. Adjournment**

The Agriculture Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



**TO:** Agricultural Advisory Committee

**FROM:** Ruth Rendon, Senior Planner, Natural Heritage  
Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage

**DATE:** November 5, 2014

**Re:** Update on 'Share the Road' Signage Request

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On December 5, 2013, the Agricultural Advisory Committee requested that staff review potential locations for 'Share the Road' signage along Elgin Mills Road and 19th Avenue. Operations staff confirmed that 'Share the Road' signs are considered advisory and are not regulated by Provincial legislation or Municipal by-laws. Establishing a set of criteria to direct the location of signs was needed. The following criteria was developed:

1. Generally, no more than one sign per direction per concession block
2. Not in hamlets or in areas dominated by rural residential blocks
3. Not in areas proposed for future development in the Official Plan
4. Prioritized in areas with diminished sight lines
5. Immediately after major intersections
6. Immediately before major access points of farms
7. No signs on Regional Roads or proposed Regional roads

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the Agricultural Advisory Committee received a staff presentation on criteria and potential signage locations along Elgin Mills Road and 19th Avenue. The Agricultural Advisory Committee requested that staff review three additional locations and report back at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff have reviewed the three additional signage locations and offer the following:

1. The location at Elgin Mills Road east of Hwy 48 (south-east corner) meets the criteria # 4 and can be considered.
2. The location at Major Mackenzie Drive east of 9<sup>th</sup> Line does not meet criteria # 7 as they are both Regional roads.
3. The location at 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Warden Avenue does not meet criteria #3 and # 7 as this area is proposed for future development and the roads may be transferred to the Region in the future.

Operations staff are in agreement with the criteria and they have verified that their department will be able to fund the installation of up to 7 signs within their current budget (refer to Attachment No. 1).

If the Agricultural Advisory Committee wishes to move this project forward, staff suggest the following recommendation for consideration:

*WHEREAS the Agricultural Advisory Committee have identified an opportunity to reduce potential road conflicts with farm vehicles and enhance overall safety through 'Share the Road' signage; and,*

*WHEREAS 'Share the Road' criteria have been prepared to identify appropriate locations for signage; and,*

*WHEREAS 'Share the Road' signage funding has been confirmed by the Operations, Business and Technical Services department within the Community and Fire Services Commission for the installation of up to 7 signs;*

*THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends Council support for the installation of 7 'Share the Road' signs along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Elgin Mills Road at the following locations:*

- 1. Elgin Mills Road at the south-east corner of McCowan Road (eastbound)*
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- 4. Elgin Mills Road at the north-west corner of Reesor Road (westbound)*
- 5. South side of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Hwy 48 and 9<sup>th</sup> Line (eastbound)*
- 6. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the south-east corner of Reesor Road (eastbound)*
- 7. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the north-west corner of Reesor Road (westbound)*

**Attachment No. 1: Map of 'Share the Road' Signage Locations**

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Requested 

