



01-24-AAC Minutes
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
March 28, 2024

Attendance

Members Present:

Dave Spring, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Ted Woods, Christian Farmers Assoc. (*arrived at 10:44am*)
Chair, Donna Jebb, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren, NVCA Member (*departed at 11:15am*)
Vice-Chair, Cllr. Kevin Eisses, NVCA Member
Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink, NVCA Member
Colin Elliot, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers Association

Members Absent:

Dave Ritchie, Simcoe County Federation of Agricultural
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA
Andy Vanniekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association

NVCA Staff Absent:

Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services

NVCA Staff:

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer
Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits
Tyler Mulhall, Planner
Kerry Jenkins, Administrative Assistant/Recorder

1. Call to Order

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda

Recommendation:

RES: 01-24

Moved by: Donna Jebb

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee 01-24-AAC dated March 28, 2024 be approved.

Carried;

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approved Minutes

The minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting 03-23-AAC dated on December 7, 2023 was approved by the Board of Directors during the 12-23-BOD (2023 Business) dated on January 26, 2024.**Presentations**

5. Elections

Members must re-elect committee members who have a one year term of service. Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren nominated Donna Jebb as Chair, Donna accepted. Donna Jebb nominated Cllr. Kevin Eisses as Vice-Chair, Cllr. Kevin Eisses accepted.

Chair: Donna Jebb - acclaimed

Vice-Chair: Cllr. Kevin Eisses - acclaimed

6. Administration

Donna Jebb, Chair went over AAC Terms of Reference and Procedural guidelines.

7. Presentations

7.1. Drainage

Tyler Mulhall, Planner, conducted a presentation regarding NVCA and Ditches.

Recommendation:

RES: 02-24

RESOLVED THAT: the Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the presentation regarding NVCA and Ditches as presented.

Carried;

Discussion:

Questions were raised regarding if farmers still need to get permission from the NVCA to drain their farms.

NVCA staff strongly recommended to the members to always contact NVCA staff before draining their farms as they may require a permit still if it's located near or adjacent to a wetland feature.

Members commented that if there is a licensed personal up-seeing the tile drain, then they shouldn't need a permit.

NVCA staff informed the members regardless if they are licensed or not, it still needs to be done a certain way.

Questions were raised regarding farmers putting in ditches themselves and asked if it would then become regulated by the NVCA. Staff informed the members that if the ditch creates a natural watercourse, then yes, it will become regulated.

Members asked what is the protocol if there are no municipal drains in a certain area, are the property owners responsible and have to agree to get the land drained?

NVCA staff informed the members that it is best for property owners to contact the drainage superintendent of their municipality regarding any drainage inquiries and questions first, before reaching out to conservation authorities.

Some members also noted that all municipalities have a drainage superintendent and all farmers need to be aware of that. Members also stated that they believe the drainage superintendents need to be involved more.

Members asked if NVCA would be interested in hosting another meeting that would have Frank Jonkman, Drainage Superintendent and possibly Tim Brooks to do a presentation regarding drainage and help anyone who is interested in further understanding the Ontario Drainage Act.

NVCA staff said they would be pleased to host a meeting regarding further clarification on drainage and the Ontario Drainage Act.

Jody Mott and Chair Donna Jebb will work with NVCA staff to decide on the location and time, as well as putting together the agenda and invitations.

Deputy Mayor Paul Van Staveren put forth a motion:

Recommendation:

RES: 03-24

RESOLVED THAT: we bring Frank Jonkman and anyone else in on a meeting regarding drainage and further clarification on the Ontario Drainage Act at the end of May or beginning of June 2024.

Moved by: Cllr. Pieter Kiezebrink

Seconded by: Dave Spring

Carried;

8. Clearing Land

Tyler Mulhall, Planner and Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits entertained questions regarding clearing land.

Staff informed the members that NVCA in general, doesn't allow any alterations on wetland features, unless the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed activity will not change or interfere with the wetland.

To receive a permit for activities associated with wetlands, the applicant must demonstrate that interference on components of a wetland, such as hydrology, water quality, vegetation, etc., are not likely to be affected by the proposed activity.

Members asked if clearing trees was County or NVCA decision.

Staff stated If located within County Greenlands and the NVCA regulated area, the County will typically consult with NVCA through their review process. Generally, NVCA will allow tree removal without permits as long as it's not in the wetland feature, however, if grubbing and stump removal is required within the regulated area, then an NVCA permit is required prior to work starting.

9.Tentative 2024 Meeting Dates

Recommendation:

2nd Quarter Date: Thursday June 27, 2024 (virtual)

3rd Quarter Date: Thursday September 26, 2024 (virtual)

4th Quarter Date: Thursday December 12, 2024 (in-person)

Subject to change by majority vote if required

10.Other Business

NVCA staff informed the members that NVCA is not here to prevent anyone from wanting to do what needs to be done on their farms. Our role is to ensure it can be done without harming the environment, property and lives. The NVCA, just like all other CA's has a legislation that is given to us and we are required to follow that legislation.

Some members asked other members what the purpose of the meeting that will be hosted in end of May or beginning of June.

Other members stated that the purpose of the next meeting will be to inform everyone of the Ontario Drainage Act as well as the new legislative changes as well.

11.Adjourn

Recommendation:

RES: 04-24

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the agricultural Advisory Committee 01-24-AAC adjourn at: 11:39am.