



Hamilton

**Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee  
REPORT 21-002**

**AS AMENDED BY COUNCIL ON MAY 12, 2021**

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Due to COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall, this meeting was held virtually.**

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<b>Present:</b>	Councillors L. Ferguson, B. Johnson and A. VanderBeek  A. Spoelstra (Chair), D. Smith (Vice-Chair), J. Mantel, C. McMaster, N. Mills, A. Payne, C. Roberts, R. Shuker, G. Smuk and M. Switzer
<b>Absent With Regrets:</b>	Councillor B. Clark – City Business P. Krakar and R. Pearce
<b>Also Present:</b>	Councillor J. Partridge Janice Janiec, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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**THE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS  
REPORT 21-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

**1. Land Needs Assessment Process (Item 10.2)**

WHEREAS, prime agricultural land is a valuable, shrinking, non-renewable resource and only 5% of the arable land in Ontario is viable for agricultural production;

WHEREAS, Hamilton's available white belt growth lands are some of the more productive food producing lands in the city, having much of it classified as Class 1 under Canada land inventory mapping; and,

WHEREAS, Hamilton has great opportunities to intensify core areas of the city while meeting the needs for growth, rebuilding core infrastructure and developing an effective transit corridor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee respectfully recommends that the City of Hamilton ~~establish~~ **consider** the current urban boundary as a fixed

boundary, focusing development and planning efforts on core urbanized and under-utilized areas while preserving prime agricultural land in the white belt for the production of food, fibre and fuel for the foreseeable future **as part of the GRIDS process**.

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

The agenda for the April 12, 2021 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee was approved, as presented.

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) January 18, 2021 (Item 4.1)**

The Minutes of the January 18, 2021 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee were approved, as presented.

**(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**

**(i) Inclusion of a Farm Business Registration Number on Agricultural Building Permit Applications (Item 10.1)**

The Committee indicated that they are seeking clarity with respect to the City's practice of asking for farm business registration numbers for agricultural building permit applications, not Committee of Adjustment (minor variance) applications. The title of the matter under discussion was **amended** to reflect the correct subject matter.

The Committee is aware that a farm business registration number is not identified as a statutory requirement for a building permit to be issued under the *Building Code Act, 1992* or other applicable law. This is a Provincial regulation and there is no avenue for a local municipal authority to alter the requirements.

However, the Committee is interested in whether City staff receiving and reviewing agricultural building permit applications are able to ask clarifying questions or seek further information (specifically in the form of a farm business registration number) in relation to the applications.

If this is allowable, the Committee would encourage this additional probing into agricultural building permit applications to be standard practice in order to ensure that only bona-fide agricultural buildings and farm operations receive the appropriate exemptions.

The request for further information from staff, respecting the practice of asking for farm business registration numbers on agricultural building permit applications, was approved.

**(ii) Land Needs Assessment Process (Item 10.2)**

Joanne Hickey Evans, Manager, Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform, and Heather Travis, Senior Project Manager, Growth Management Strategy, addressed Committee respecting the Land Needs Assessment Process, with the aid of a presentation.

The presentation, respecting the Land Needs Assessment Process, was received.

Andrew Spoelstra relinquished the Chair to Dale Smith in order to move a Motion respecting the Land Needs Assessment Process (Item 10.2).

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

Andrew Spoelstra assumed the Chair.

**(e) GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)**

**(i) Committee of Adjustment Application for a Minor Variance respecting a Farm Labour Residence (Added Item 13.1)**

Dale Smith advised the Committee that an application for a Minor Variance at a property on Governor's Road, for the construction of new greenhouses and a new farm labour residence, was reviewed by the Committee of Adjustment on January 21, 2021.

Specifically, the applicant was seeking a number of variances in relation to a farm labour residence (bunkhouse) that aligned with the ideas for modernizing the City of Hamilton's farm labour residence policies presented by Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, at the January 18, 2021 Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee meeting (see Item (e)(i) of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Report 21-002 for reference).

City staff supported the variances, noting that they are not inconsistent with the general intent and purpose Rural Hamilton Official Plan and the City of Hamilton Zoning By-law 05-200.

The presentation by Dale Smith, respecting a Committee of Adjustment Application for a Minor Variance respecting a Farm Labour Residence, was received.

**(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

The meeting of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Spoelstra, Chair  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
Advisory Committee

Alicia Davenport  
Legislative Coordinator  
Office of the City Clerk