



Hamilton

AGRICULTURAL & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT 14-001

7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 24, 2014

Room 264

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present:	Councillors B. Johnson, R. Pasuta D. Spoelstra (Vice Chair), G. Hyde, F. Trauttmansdorff, R. Shuker, C. McMaster, D. Smith, N. Mills, J. Mantel, M. Switzer
Absent with regrets:	Councillor J. Partridge – City Business Councillor L. Ferguson – City Business D. Cranston (Chair), W. Arndt, P. Krakar, R. Saccomano

THE AGRICULTURAL & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 14-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Road Salt Usage in the Rural Areas (Item 8.1)**
- 2. Culverts and Rural Road Drainage (Item 8.2)**

That Roads & Maintenance staff be directed to attend the next Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee meeting to speak to the matters of Road Salt Usage in the Rural Areas and, Culverts and Rural Road Drainage.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The agenda was approved, as presented.

(b) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) November 19, 2013 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting of the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee were approved, as presented.

(c) PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Cathy Plosz, Development Planning, Heritage and Design respecting Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and Linkage Assessment Guidelines (Item 7.1)

Cathy Plosz, Natural Heritage Planner, Planning, was not in attendance due to illness.

A PowerPoint handout, respecting the Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and Linkage Assessment Guidelines presentation, was distributed at the meeting. A copy of the presentation handout has been included in the public record.

The presentation handout included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines
 - Updating language to use terms and definitions
 - Timing of field surveys
 - Procedure for EIS submission
- Linkage Assessment (LA) Guidelines
 - Similar to EIS guidelines
 - Outlines content, field work, process for review
 - LA can be done as a part of EIS if there is also a Core Area on property
- Review Process
- Approval Process

The Committee noted that questions and comments can be forwarded to Cathy Plosz, Natural Heritage Planner, Planning.

Councillor Johnson asked staff to explain the acronyms included in the handout.

Staff advised of the following acronyms:

- Environmental Significant Area (ESA)
- Linkage Assessment (LA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Vegetative Protection Zone (VPZ)

The information respecting Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines and Linkage Assessment Guidelines was received.

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) Road Salt Usage in the Rural Areas (Item 8.1)

(ii) Culverts and Rural Road Drainage (Item 8.2)

The Committee expressed concerns with the amount of salt being used in rural areas. The Committee also questioned the environmental impact and available guidelines for this matter.

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

(iii) CRTC – Fibre Optic Cable in Rural Areas (City Wide) (FCS13056) (Item 8.3)

Staff advised CRTC is an acronym for Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

The Committee had a general discussion respecting the report. The Committee also discussed different geographical areas and what quality of service is available in those areas.

Staff advised of the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus which is an organization representing 14 counties in western Ontario, and has initiated the Broadband Project. The Broadband Project will aim to create a plan for having affordable robust ultra-broadband connectivity available.

The Committee inquired if Hamilton will be represented at the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus' Broadband Project.

Staff advised it is advantageous for Hamilton to apply for the program and that there is value in having Hamilton represented. Staff stated that this matter is soon becoming a required modern infrastructure.

Information Technology staff were requested to work with the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and Economic staff for purposes of continuing to explore Federal programs respecting fibre optics and report back to the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee.

(e) GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 11)

(i) Sub-Committee Evaluation Tool (Item 11.1)

The Committee completed the Sub-Committee Evaluation Tool respecting the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee.

(ii) Update to the Golden Horseshoe Agricultural and Agri-Food Economic Profile (Added Item 11.2)

Staff advised the first draft of the profile is now available and able to provide comments. Staff also reported that there was representation across the Golden Horseshoe and will report back to the Committee with a further update when available.

(iii) Use of All Terrain Vehicles Update (ATV's) (Added Item 11.3)

Councillor Johnson advised that brochures are available which provide information respecting the use of ATVs to educate the community. Hamilton worked with police and conservation authorities to create the brochures.

The Committee advised there has since been a noted reduction in ATV use and increased enforcement.

(iv) Animal Control in Rural Areas (Added Item 11.4)

Councillor Johnson advised the notion of hiring contracts to provide animal control in rural areas is being revisited and requested that this matter be added to the next agenda.

(v) Medical Marihuana Growing Update (Added Item 11.5)

Staff advised that the Federal Government is regulating licensing, and outlined requirements for license eligibility and zoning requirements. Staff also informed the Committee that information is being brought forward to Council on March 26, 2014.

(vi) Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee meeting location (Added Item 11.6)

The Committee expressed the desire to hold all future committee meetings at the Ancaster Fairgrounds.

City Clerks were requested to hold future Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee meetings at the Ancaster Fairgrounds.

(vii) Agenda and Information Packages (Added Item 11.6)

The Committee requested that committee agendas and information packages be made available at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

Where there is sufficient lead time given for the Agricultural & Rural Advisory Committee meetings, any information package to be discussed are to be included in the mail out and received at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

(f) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Cranston
Chair, Agricultural & Rural
Affairs Advisory Committee

Jasmine Branton
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk