



Hamilton

**REPORT 15-001
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 15, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Board Room

Ancaster Fairgrounds

630 Trinity Road, Ancaster

Present: D. Cranston – Chair, G. Hyde, C. McMaster, D. Smith, R. Shuker, N. Mills, J. Mantel, A. Spoelstra, M. Switzer, F. Tranttmansdorff

Councillors R. Pasuta, L. Ferguson

**Absent with
Regrets:** Councillor B. Johnson – Bereavement
Councillor J. Partridge
W. Arndt, P. Krakar, R. Saccomano

**THE AGRICULTURAL & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS
REPORT 15-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

1. Rural Zoning (Item 8.1)

That the following comments be referred to staff:

- (a) That the Medical Marihuana uses be allowed in existing buildings in the rural areas;
- (b) That any new Medical Marihuana buildings be limited to 2,000 square metres and 11.5 metres in height;
- (c) That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee supports the proposed new zones for the rural areas and representatives will attend the March 31, 2015 meeting as a delegation.

2. Employment Survey in Rural Areas (Item 11.1)

That the Ontario Federation of Agriculture be approached to see if it is willing to make personal contact with agricultural farmers to work with the City of Hamilton to complete the annual employment survey.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following change:

- (i) Added as Item 8.2 Employment Survey in Rural Areas

The agenda was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) June 23, 2014 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee of June 23, 2014 were approved, as presented.

(d) DISCUSSION (Item 5)

(i) Rural Zoning (Item 8.1)

Joanne Hickey-Evans provided an overview of the report including, but not limited to:

- Background on the rural zoning changes in 2014
- Natural Heritage zones, wetlands, vacant lots
- Drop in centre results
- Landscape contractors (complaints, trucking, burning, noise)
- Industrial uses M3 - Site specific exceptions, allowing current uses
- Working with the Green Belt Plan and what will work for each municipality
- Written comments (approximately 40) are mostly targeted towards individual properties. No comments from any other agency.
- March 31, 2015 – Planning Committee public meeting. Another report will be presented following public consultation

Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- M3 business park industrial zone, how green belt impacts it and recognizing current uses
 - Rural A2 and calling it a different zone to include industrial (possible property devaluation) that will reflect that the zone is for current use but not to be expanded.
- Possible expansions and how the zoning would impact
- Illegal operators
- Landscape contractors
- Medicinal Marijuana and size restrictions

For disposition, refer to item 1.

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

(i) Employment Survey in Rural Areas (Item 11.1)

Joanne Hickey-Evans updated the committee on rural employment survey to identify seasonal, full-time and part-time employees and requested options to encourage farmers to participate in the survey.

For disposition, refer to item 2.

(ii) Environment Hamilton – Farm Mapping Directory (Item 11.2)

Staff advised that the Farm Mapping Directory is available from Environment Hamilton and explained the print and online components.

(iii) Celebration of Rural Excellence (Item 11.3)

Members advised of the Celebration of Rural Excellence even on February 14, 2015.

(iv) Celebration of Rural Excellence (Item 11.4)

Roads and shoulders at the next meeting

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

There being no further business the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Doug Cranston, Chair
Agricultural and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Vanessa Robicheau
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk