



Hamilton

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

MINUTES 16-003

Monday, December 12, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Ancaster Fairgrounds

630 Trinity Church Road South, Ancaster

Present:	Councillors B. Johnson and L. Ferguson A. Spoelstra (Chair), D. Smith (Vice Chair), C. McMaster, J. Medeiros, R. Shuker, A. Sinclair, J. Mantel, K. Smith, M. Switzer
Absent with Regrets:	Councillors R. Pasuta and J. Partridge - Personal N. Mills
Absent:	P. Krakar and R. Saccomano

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Item 1)

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

(K. Smith/Switzer)

That the agenda for the December 12, 2016 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

(i) June 21, 2016 (Item 3.1)

(D. Smith/Sinclair)

That the minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

Planning Committee – January 17, 2017

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 8)

(i) Verbal Update from Traffic Operations and Engineering Staff, Public Works Department, respecting the recent update to the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law about Farm Truck Exemptions on Rural Roads (Item 8.1)

Mr. Jason Worrone, Senior Project Manager, Traffic Safety Engineering, addressed the Committee on the recent update to the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law for Farm Truck Exemptions on Rural Roads.

Mr. Worrone advised that Section 56 of the City's traffic by-law was amended to exempt farm vehicles from rural roads that are designated as a truck route. The common practice was to exempt such vehicles however; it was not formally in the traffic by-law so an update was required.

Mr. Worrone stated that the City is working with the Hamilton Police Service to ensure that officers are aware of the by-law so that tickets are not wrongly issued.

(D. Smith/McMaster)

That the update respecting changes to the City of Hamilton Traffic By-law about Farm Truck Exemptions on Rural Roads, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Robert Ustrzycki, Senior Project Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement, respecting the Consultation on the Review of the City of Hamilton's Discharge of Firearms By-law (Item 8.2)

Robert Ustrzycki, Senior Project Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE), addressed the Committee about the Consultation on the Review of the City of Hamilton's Discharge of Firearms By-law.

With the aid of a handout Mr. Ustrzycki presented the following information. A copy of the handout has been retained for the official record. The remarks included, but were not limited to, the following information:

- Objectives of the Review:
 - Update schedule map(s) where the discharge of firearms is prohibited
 - Incorporate recent and future urban development
 - Consultation with land owners and stakeholders
- Goal of By-law review:
 - Refines and provides clear interpretation and understanding of the provisions

- Acknowledges and recognizes the difference aspects of bows versus common firearms
 - Balances the varied needs of the community
 - Maintains public safety
 - Reinforces federal/provincial firearm regulations
- Consultation Process involves:
 - Preparing map(s) to identify anticipated boundary changes
 - Identify and consult with numerous stakeholders regarding boundary changes and safety concerns
 - Open public consultation with property owners having an interest in boundary changes, public safety and changes to the by-law
- Excerpts from the current By-law:
 - Definitions
 - Farm Lands
 - Firearms
 - Exemptions
 - Regulations
 - Enforcement
- Working Group involves Municipal Law Enforcement, Police and Conservation Authorities who will undertake such things as: a review of the stakeholder and public comments as well as look at best practices in other jurisdictions

The Committee members used this time to ask questions of Mr. Ustrzycki as well as provide their comments and suggestions to him about the review.

(K. Smith/McMaster)

That the presentation respecting the Review of the City of Hamilton's Discharge of Firearms By-law, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Correspondence from Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron-Bruce, respecting a Private Member's Bill on Certified Crop Advisors (Item 8.3)

Chair Spoelstra provided the Committee with an overview of the issue of Certified Crop Advisors in Ontario. He explained that MPP Thompson's Bill was passed earlier this fall so no further discussion or action was required by the Committee.

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

(i) Construction in Binbrook affecting Wells (Added Item 11.1)

Chair Spoelstra brought forward concerns about how new construction in Binbrook is affecting farm and residential wells in the area. Mr. Mike Christie, Project Manager, Source Protection Planning, was in attendance to answer questions about this matter.

Mr. Christie informed the Committee that a "Level 3" drought was declared in Hamilton due to the dry weather this summer. This declaration allows farmers to access certain government assistance programs.

(ii) Topics for Future Committee Meetings (Added Item 11.2)

Chair Spoelstra asked Committee members to consider any topics/issues that they would like to bring forward in 2017.

One issue raised was regarding farm tax rates and farm assessments. The Committee Clerk was directed to contact staff in the Finance department to arrange for a representative to attend a future meeting to address this issue.

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

(Ferguson/Shuker)

That, there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Spoelstra, Chair,
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Lauri Leduc
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk