



Hamilton

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

MINUTES 17-003

Monday, September 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.

**Glanbrook Municipal Service Centre
4280 Binbrook Road, Binbrook**

Present:	Councillors B. Johnson, R. Pasuta and J. Partridge A. Spoelstra (Chair), D. Smith (Vice Chair), P. Krakar, C. McMaster, J. Medeiros, N. Mills, R. Shuker, K. Smith and G. Smuk
Absent with Regrets:	Councillor Ferguson – City Business W. Galloway, J. Mantel, A. Sinclair and M. Switzer
Absent:	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 September 25, 2017 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, be approved.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

(i) June 26, 2017 (Item 3.1)

Roy Shuker requested that the following correction to the wording of Item (e)(i), respecting Rural Ditching and Maintenance and Cross Culvert Replacement, be made:

Committee members felt this equipment would cause damage because it operates like a snowblower and throws dirt and stones ~~into the air~~ onto agricultural land.

The Committee Clerk will ensure that this correction is made.

(Shuker/K. Smith)

That the minutes of the June 26, 2017 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(d) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

- (i) Correspondence from the Presidents of the Niagara North, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara South, Brant County, Norfolk, Haldimand and Halton Region Federations of Agriculture requesting the Council to pass a resolution to endorse provincial public investment for natural gas expansion (endorsed by City Council at its meeting held on September 14, 2017 referred to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee for information) (Item 5.1)**

(B. Johnson/Shuker)

That the Correspondence from the Presidents of the Niagara North, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara South, Brant County, Norfolk, Haldimand and Halton Region Federations of Agriculture requesting the Council to pass a resolution to endorse provincial public investment for natural gas expansion, be received.

CARRIED

(e) PRESENTATIONS (Item 7)

- (i) Brian Hughes, Manager of Capital Rehabilitation and Technical Operations, Roads and Maintenance Section of the Public Works Department, respecting Rural Ditching and Maintenance and Cross Culvert Replacement (Item 7.1)**

Brian Hughes, Manager of Capital Rehabilitation and Technical Operations, Roads and Maintenance Section of the Public Works Department, addressed the Committee respecting Rural Ditching and Maintenance and Cross Culvert Replacement with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is available through the City Clerk's Office.

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

- Overview of the Capital Rehabilitation and Technical Operations Section
- Areas of Expertise
 - Drainage
 - Structural
 - Materials
 - Asphalt and Concrete
- Cross Culvert Replacement Program
 - Minimize working footprint/isolating the work area
 - Performing work in dry conditions/forecast monitoring
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
 - Restore Disturbed Surfaces
- Rural Ditching Program – Working Practices
 - Incorporate a flat bottom
 - Limit works adjacent to regulated watercourses
 - Restoration seeding/sodding (in select locations)
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
- Future Considerations
 - Equipment and Methods
 - Re-lining culverts
 - Ditching/Excavation versus In-place
 - Maintenance Needs Review

(Smuk/Pasuta)

That the presentation respecting Rural Ditching and Maintenance and Cross Culvert Replacement, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Jeremy Getson, Manager of Construction and Growth, Hamilton Halton District, Union Gas, respecting the Province of Ontario Natural Gas Grant Program (Item 7.2)

Mr. Jeremy Getson, Manager of Construction and Growth, Hamilton Halton District, Union Gas, addressed the Committee respecting the Province of Ontario Natural Gas Grant Program with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is available through the City Clerk's Office.

Mr. Getson was joined by Mr. Jeff Wesley, Manager of Municipal Relations for Union Gas, in making the presentation.

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

- Business Profile of Union Gas and Overview of the Hamilton/Halton District
- Overview of the Hamilton Distribution System
- Benefits of Natural Gas and a Cost Comparison
- Description of the Ontario Energy Board
- Ontario's Natural Gas Grant Program and Details about the Sheffield Submission
 - \$70 million available to municipalities, First Nations and unincorporated areas for community expansion
 - Applications are submitted by the natural gas distributor
 - A preliminary design and costing has been submitted for the Sheffield project
 - Hamilton Council has supported the application
 - The application was submitted in July and Union Gas is awaiting the decision

(Shuker/K. Smith)

That the presentation from Union Gas respecting the Province of Ontario Natural Gas Grant Program, be received.

CARRIED

(iii) Joanne Hickey-Evans, Manager, Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform, respecting the July 2017 Draft Agricultural System Implementation Plan Procedures and Mapping proposed by the Province of Ontario (Item 7.3)

Ms. Joanne Hickey-Evans addressed the Committee respecting the July 2017 Draft Agricultural System Implementation Plan Procedures and Mapping proposed by the Province of Ontario with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is available through the City Clerk's Office. Ms. Hickey-Evans was joined by Eric Yemen, GIS Technician in the Zoning By-law Reform Section, in making the presentation.

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

- Context and Background
 - Provincial Plans are to establish an Agricultural System comprised of an agricultural land base, rural areas and an agri-food network to support the agricultural community
 - To establish a consistent agricultural land base for all municipalities
- What is LEAR (Land Evaluation Area Review)

- A mathematical method to identify prime agricultural areas
- LE= soil classification and AR= factors that affect agriculture
- Each land unit is given a score based on the soil and the presence of factors; land with high scores are identified as prime agricultural areas
- How Provincial LEAR compares to the City's Rural Hamilton Official Plan: an additional 12,000 hectares have been identified as prime agricultural areas by the Province
- The City's comments to the Province about the draft plan:
 - Rural Lands are an important part of an Agricultural System
 - All agricultural lands in the City, including Specialty Crops, need to be evaluated
 - There is a need to designate and zone open spaces appropriately

(Shuker/Smuk)

That the presentation respecting the July 2017 Draft Agricultural System Implementation Plan Procedures and Mapping proposed by the Province of Ontario, be received.

CARRIED

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

(i) Councillor Judi Partridge respecting the Mayor's Intelligent Community Forum Task Force with an Update on Rural Community Internet and Bandwidth Expansion (Item 11.1)

Councillor Partridge provided the Committee with an update about the work of the Mayor's Intelligent Community Task Force. She encouraged Committee members and others in the community to take an internet speed test so that the broadband and infrastructure assets and needs of the City can be identified.

(ii) Memorandum from Tony Fallis, Manager of Election and Print, respecting an Update on the Ward Boundary issue (Item 11.2)

The memorandum respecting an Update on the Ward Boundary issue was not provided so Councillors B. Johnson, R. Pasuta and J. Partridge provided a verbal update about the matter.

The Councillors reported there is an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to the Ward Boundary By-law enacted by Council. Until the matter is dealt with by the OMB, there are no updates to provide. Hearings for the appeal begin on October 19th, 2017 in Stoney Creek. On October

24th, members of the public can address the OMB about the Ward Boundary appeal.

(iii) Ontario Farm Family Award (Added Item 11.3)

Vice-Chair Smith congratulated Chair Drew Spoelstra for being one of 2017 BMO Ontario Farm Family Award Recipients. The award was recently presented to him at the International Plowing Match.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

(Shuker/Pasuta)

That, there being no further business the meeting be adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Smith, Vice-Chair,
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Lauri Leduc
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk