



Hamilton

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

REPORT 21-001

Monday, January 18, 2021

7:00 p.m.

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

Present: Councillors B. Clark, B. Johnson and A. VanderBeek

A. Spoelstra (Chair), D. Smith (Vice-Chair), J. Mantel,
C. McMaster, N. Mills, A. Payne, R. Shuker, G. Smuk and
M. Switzer

Absent

With Regrets: Councillor L. Ferguson – City Business
P. Krakar, R. Pearce and C. Roberts

Also Present: Janice Janiec, Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Shawn Brenn, Chamber of Commerce (Flamborough)

**THE AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS
REPORT 21-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:**

1. Farm 911 (Item 9.4)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee respectfully requests that appropriate City staff be directed to develop a framework to provide emergency 911 signs to owners of unidentified farm properties in Hamilton, at their request, at no cost to the applicant.

2. Climate Action Working Group Update (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting) (Item 9.5)

That the Climate Action Working Group of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be disbanded.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.4 Farm 911 (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting)

A presentation and handout were added.

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS:

That Item 9.6, respecting Farm Labour Residence Policies, be considered immediately following the virtual delegation from Jan VanderHout on this matter.

The agenda for the January 18, 2021 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee was approved, as amended.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

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

(i) November 24, 2020 (Item 3.1)

The Minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee were approved, as presented.

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 5)

(i) Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, respecting Item 9.6 - Farm Labour Residence Policies (for today's meeting) (Item 5.1)

The delegation request, submitted by Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, respecting Item 9.6 - Farm Labour Residence Policies, was approved for today's meeting.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Items (e)(i) and (f)(vi).

**(e) PUBLIC HEARINGS / WRITTEN DELEGATIONS / VIRTUAL DELEGATIONS
(Item 7)**

**(i) Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, respecting Item 9.6 -
Farm Labour Residence Policies (Added Item 7.1)**

Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, addressed the Committee respecting Item 9.6 - Farm Labour Residence Policies.

Jan VanderHout proposed a number of ideas for modernizing the City of Hamilton's farm labour residence policies, as follows:

- (1) Eliminate the requirement for a farm labour residence to be located within 30 meters of the principal farm dwelling;
- (2) Eliminate the requirement for a farm labour residence to be located on the same lot as the existing principal farm dwelling;
- (3) Increase the maximum allowable size of a farm labour residence;
- (4) Allow multiple farm labour residences on a single lot; and,
- (5) Allow multiple rooms/bedrooms within a single farm labour residence.

The delegation from Jan VanderHout, Beverly Greenhouses Limited, respecting Item 9.6 - Farm Labour Residence Policies, was received.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item (f)(vi).

(f) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 9)

**(i) Presentation from Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance,
respecting Adopting Hemp into the Canadian Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs) (referred from the General Issues Committee on
September 23, 2020) (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting)
(Item 9.1)**

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on September 30, 2020, approved Item 8 of General Issues Committee Report 20-014, which reads as follows:

**8. Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance, respecting
Adopting Hemp into the Canadian SDGs (Item 7.1)**

The presentation, provided by Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance, respecting Adopting Hemp into the Canadian SDGs, be referred to the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee for review and a report back to the Planning Committee.

The Committee recommended that Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance, be directed to contact the appropriate federal Member of Parliament given that this is a federal initiative, outside the purview of the municipality.

The presentation from Dan Carter, Canadian Hemp Farmers Alliance, respecting Adopting Hemp into the Canadian Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was received.

Andrew Spoelstra relinquished the Chair to Dale Smith in order to provide the Committee with the following update:

(ii) Update on Activities of Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery - Agriculture and Circular Economy Working Group (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting) (Item 9.2)

Andrew Spoelstra, on behalf of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, provided the Committee with an update on the activities of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery - Agriculture and Circular Economy Working Group.

The Committee was advised that Hamilton City Council approved the final report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery on December 16, 2020. The Task Force established seven sector-specific Working Groups, of which the Agriculture and Circular Economy Working Group was one, to facilitate focused discussion and the development of short, medium and long-term recommendations.

The Agriculture and Circular Economy Working Group's recommendations included actions to be taken in each of the following areas:

- (1) Regulatory Environment - Red tape reduction
- (2) Support Local Food Production
- (3) Rural Connectivity - Look for ways to expand access to rural Hamilton residents and businesses. Strategic economic investments, like expanding reliable internet and cell phone access, will stimulate job creation, contribute to affordable community development, and deliver economic growth and prosperity for all Hamiltonians.
- (4) Rural Boundary Protection and Environmental Support

The verbal update, respecting Activities of Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery - Agriculture and Circular Economy Working Group, was received.

Andrew Spoelstra assumed the Chair.

**(iii) Natural Heritage Plans (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting)
(Item 9.3)**

Joanne Hickey Evans, Manager, Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform, and Cathy Plosz, Natural Heritage Planner, were present and assisted in answering questions of Committee on this matter.

The City of Hamilton treats the Natural Heritage System as an overlay, as opposed to a land use designation, in both the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and the Rural Hamilton Official Plan. The Planning Section within the City of Hamilton updates heritage mapping datasets based on Environmental Assessment Reports, Environmental Impact Studies, Subwatershed Studies, and other studies, as available. In its Official Plans, the City of Hamilton has identified an interconnected, protected Natural Heritage System consisting of Core Areas (the most significant natural features) and Linkages (supporting habitat patches which connect Core Areas or contribute to their ecological functions).

It is likely there will be no significant natural heritage policy revisions needed to bring the Official Plans into conformity with the updated provincial *Greenbelt Plan, 2017* and *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019*, as amended.

The discussion, respecting Natural Heritage Plans, was received.

(iv) Farm 911 (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting) (Item 9.4)

Janice Janiec, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, addressed Committee respecting Farm 911, with the aid of a presentation and handout.

Alvin Chan, Manager, Legislative Approvals / Staging of Development, was present and assisted in answering questions of Committee on this matter.

The current fee required for processing an application to change or add a new municipal number is \$359 per property. This fee is based on a full cost recovery model; the City recovers the cost to administer the service, but does not recognize any profit. The cost to purchase and install the sign are not included in this fee. If installed by the property owner, the cost to purchase the sign is \$34. If installed by the City, the cost to purchase and install the sign is \$192.

Considering new technologies, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC), has begun a transition to what is called the "New Generation 9-1-1 or NG 9-1-1". On June 1, 2017, the CRTC directed all telephone companies to update their networks in order to be

ready to provide next-generation (NG 9-1-1) voice and text messaging services in the near future.

In particular, under the Public Emergency Response Service (PERS) agreement between Bell Canada and the former Region, the City (as successor) has an obligation to provide Bell Canada with accurate addressing information if Bell is to provide the City with reliable response and effectiveness of the NG 9-1-1 system.

The presentation and handout, respecting Farm 911, were received.

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

(v) Climate Action Working Group Update (deferred from the November 24, 2020 meeting) (Item 9.5)

The Climate Action Working Group was established on November 25, 2019 to assemble current knowledge on farm abatement technologies, strategies and management practices to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon in soil while maintaining or enhancing productivity and report back to the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee at each meeting (see Item 2(b) of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Report 19-005 for reference).

The Working Group was not able to make any progress in researching and reviewing this matter amid the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, instead of pursuing this initiative independently, the members of the Working Group (Cathy McMaster and Andrew Spoelstra) expressed a desire to explore opportunities to lend their sector-specific expertise to existing, established climate change groups or task forces.

The verbal update, respecting the Climate Action Working Group, was received.

For further disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(vi) Farm Labour Residence Policies (Item 9.6)

Joanne Hickey Evans, Manager, Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform, was present and assisted in answering questions of Committee on this matter.

Revisions to the City of Hamilton's farm labour residence policies would require an amendment to the Rural Hamilton Official Plan, followed by the requisite zoning by-law changes. The City is currently focused on revising

the existing Zoning By-law 05-200 regulations for second dwelling units (SDUs), but a review of the Rural Hamilton Official Plan is slated for 2022.

The discussion, respecting Farm Labour Residence Policies, was received.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

The meeting of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Spoelstra, Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Alicia Davenport
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk