



Hamilton

REPORT 13-001 AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, March 25, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall

Present: Chair D. Cranston
Vice Chair A. Spoelstra
Councillors B. Johnson, L. Ferguson, R. Pasuta
G. Hyde, R. Shuker, C. McMaster, P. Krakar, D. Smith, R.
Saccomano, N. Mills, J. Mantel

Absent with Regrets: Councillor J. Partridge – Personal Business
M. Switzer

THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 13-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Internet Service in the Rural Area (no copy) (Item 6.5)

That the City of Hamilton petition the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) to encourage service providers to install fiber optic cable in rural areas of Hamilton.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

ADDED DELEGATION REQUEST

- (i) Delegation request from Kim Houtmeyers respecting health concerns with ornamental ponds (added item 4.1)

The agenda were approved, as amended.

(b) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(i) September 25, 2012 (Item 3.1)

The minutes of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee of May 31, 2012, were approved as presented.

(c) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

4.1 Delegation request from Kim Houtmeyers respecting health concerns with oriental ponds (Added Item 4.1)

The delegation by Kim Houtmeyers respecting health concerns with oriental ponds, was approved, provided that they item deal with agricultural matters.

(d) PRESENTATIONS (Item 5)

(i) All Terrain Vehicles on Agricultural lands (no copy) (Item 5.1)

Officer David Hennick gave a presentation respecting ATV's on Agricultural lands within Hamilton. Officer Hennick spoke of Hamilton Police's initiative respecting respecting ATV enforcement and new ATV squad.

The Committee asked questions of Officer Hennick with respect to enforcement, and what people in the rural community can do to protect themselves.

The presentation by David Hennick respecting All Terrain Vehicles on Agricultural lands, was received.

(e) DISCUSSION (Item 6)

(i) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and Farms (no copy) (Item 6.1)

The Committee discussed the assessment rate of rural property. The Committee also discussed concerns with foreign ownership of agriculture lands within the Hamilton area.

The update respecting the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) and Farms, was received.

CARRIED

(ii) Tree Cutting By-law (no copy) (Item 6.2)

The Committee discussed the tree cutting by-law, and possible ways that the by-law could be improved. The Committee requested that this item appear on the next agenda.

The update respecting the City of Hamilton tree cutting by-law, was received.

(iii) Road Salt Usage in the Rural Area (no copy) (Item 6.3)

The Committee expressed concerns with the usage of road salt, and its effects on agricultural land. The Committee questioned if the City following the Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of Road Salts.

Darrel Smith, Manager, Roads & Maintenance was invited to a future meeting of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee to speak on the use of road salt in the rural area.

(iv) Culverts and Rural Road Drainage (no copy) (Item 6.4)

The Committee discussed issues with rural drainage, and issues with the replacement of culverts in the rural area. The Committee indicated that they have concerns with the way some culverts have been replaced, and their effectiveness.

Darrel Smith, Manager, Roads & Maintenance was invited to a future meeting of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee to speak on the installation and replacement of culverts in the rural area.

(v) Internet Service in the Rural Area (no copy) (Item 6.5)

The Committee indicated that internet service has improved in the rural area. Councillor Ferguson indicated that there has been an interest in installing fiber optic cable in the rural area, to offer more telecommunication options for rural consumers.

Please refer to item 1 for disposition.

(f) **ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)**

The Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Doug Cranston, Chair
Agricultural and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Christopher Newman
Legislative Coordinator