Chair Roy Shuker welcomed the members then went around the table with introductions of members and guest then called the meeting to order.

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

   8.2 Add Stakeholders Workshop for GRIDS

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

   3.1 Minutes from August 25th, 2005

   Mel Switzer moved that the minutes of October 27th, 2005 be adopted as presented; seconded by Nancy Mills. **CARRIED**

4. **DELEGATION REQUESTS** – none

5. **CONSENT ITEMS** – none

6. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**
6.1 Farming in Hamilton

Committee received a public delegation consisting of various agriculture operations in rural Hamilton that have experienced difficulty with their agricultural development plans. Tom Redmond – Building and Licensing was in attendance to address these concerns and offer staff expertise. A presentation from Jan Vanderhout of Beverly Greenhouses outlined some of the areas of concern with his development plans. Several additional concerns were brought forward from other attendees Dave Brenn - Brenn B Farms, Andrew and Chris Pepetone - Terra Greenhouses, Murray Puddicombe – Puddicombe Farms, Ben Graham and Brian Griffith – Glanbrook residents and Peter Jeffery – OFA staff. This was a complex discussion with several areas reviewed as follows:

- Building Permit Fees for Agriculture operations
- Accessory Use Buildings vital to the farm operation
- Inconsistency with rules or interpretation
- Perceived lack of customer service
- Lack of agriculture staff expertise

Tom Redmond outlined that his department operates on a cost recovery basis with no downloading on the tax base. A cost analysis was undertaken on building permit fees with similar size urban municipalities and Hamilton’s rates were competitive. This caused great concern for members that feel they are not looking for a break but rates for agricultural development must be compared to similar sized rural agriculture communities. Tom has indicated that his department has run on a significant surplus and those funds are in reserves.

This overall discussion was appropriate especially as the rural content for the new Official plan is being developed and subsequently the new Zoning By-law for the City of Hamilton. It was very clear that members of the ARAAC and public delegation want this process to be clearly defined and “simple”. The following steps will be undertaken over the next few months with Tom Redmond reporting back to staff at the March 2006 meeting.

- Henry Swierenga to provide Tom Redmond with a list of building permit fees and rules from other rural agriculture municipalities for comparison purposes
- Tom Redmond will do a cost analysis of agriculture development and building fees collected in Hamilton and how any change will affect the departments cost recovery/enterprise formula
- Customer service issues will be looked at with a possible recommendation to have a staff person specialize in agriculture development – one stop shopping
• Review interpretation and have clear definition of what is agriculture including accessory use buildings – simpler is better

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7.1 none

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Delegation Request to attend the Pesticide Sub-Committee Meeting December 8thGrowing Your Opportunities Conference

• At the August 25th meeting two motions were passed by ARAAC members to present to the Pesticide Sub-Committee. 1. “The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee recommends to Council that all agriculturally zoned lands be exempt from the City of Hamilton proposed Pesticide Reduction Strategy” and 2. The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee recommends to Council that an education program be the method adopted by the City of Hamilton to effectively educate, control and reduce the use of pesticides.” A request for Public Delegation for the ARAAC to present these motions to the Pesticide Committee has been approved for the December 8th meeting. Roy Shuker and Robert Pasuta have agreed to attend on behalf of this committee.

8.2 Stakeholders Workshop for GRIDS

• GRIDS will be conducting a stakeholders workshop. Ralph Kikkert will attend this event on behalf of the ARAAC and report back to committee
• There will be several public information sessions on the GRIDS strategy and members were given a flyer announcing dates with general information

9. MOTIONS none

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS - none
11. GENERAL INFORMATION

11.1 ARAAC Committee Member Update

- Susan Coverdale advised the group that the group “Catch” Citizens at City Hall had expressed an interest in the ARAAC committee. They have requested a copy or list of the members and their respective affiliation or role. Their members actively attend most or all official committee, sub-committee and Council meetings. Sue anticipates that members of this organization will likely begin attending ARAAC meetings and are certainly entitled to do so but would only be there to observe and take detailed note which are often posted on their website. http://www.environmenthamilton.org/CATCH/index.htm

Councillor Braden spoke positively of this group, their mandate and accountability.

12. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – none

13. ADJOURNMENT – Dale Smith moved the meeting be adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26th, 2005
Ancaster Marritt Hall – Boardroom
7:30 p.m.