CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carl Loewith called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Chair Loewith welcomed Margaret Walton, Neil Everson, Norm Schleehahn and Pat Parker to the meeting.

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA – none

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of September 23rd, 2008. Motion to approve by Mel Switzer, seconded by Andrew Spoelstra. CARRIED.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Hamilton Agricultural Profile 2008 – Margaret Walton made a successful presentation to City of Hamilton Council – Committee of Whole. She presented an update report to the Agricultural Economic Impact and Development Study from 2003 to reflect the new Census Data from 2006. Support was unanimous with Council and it was noted that from initial presentations to Council agriculture seems to be an important issue to our community.
Councillors and senior staff. Committee members were pleased to see the trends, issues and successes of the local agriculture industry were identified and that this sector has grown to a $1.2 billion dollar economic industry annually in the City of Hamilton. Members want to continue to review the status of agriculture in this community and upon the release of the next release of the census data that the City of Hamilton prepares another report of this nature so that we can continue to monitor progress and support the agriculture industry.

4.2 Agricultural Waste Management – Pat Parker came and spoke with the committee so that they could determine what would be the best solution for managing agricultural waste. Pat discussed the following items with the committee

- Background
- Update on Container Limits
- Implementation
- Current Services to the Agricultural Community
- Emerging Initiatives
- What is the Appropriate Services for the Agricultural Community
- Moving Forward

After much debate is was agreed that the best solution for identifying an agricultural operation for the Waste Management Division would be to put the onus on the farmer. Pat Parker and staff will work with our Tax Department to identify agricultural operations identified through the tax roll. Farmers will be sent out correspondence (that will be vetted through the ARAAC committee) and those farmers interested in receiving special consideration for an increase in containers (between 3 – 4 containers of garbage per week) will have to fill out these forms and submit back to staff. Once a form has been filed the garbage trucks will be notified and these agricultural operations will be allowed an increase in weekly garbage. Pat will provide the committee with a copy of the draft correspondence for their review.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

ARAAC Committee Member Update

Roy Shuker – President of the HWFA announced the “Farm Family of the Year” banquet will be held in Rockton on Friday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. Connie and Jeff Whitely will be honoured.

Nancy Mills asked what the status of the “Draft Tree Cutting By-law was and when it would be presented to the ARAAC committee. Sue Coverdale assured Nancy that this draft report will be coming to committee in either February or March.
Cathy McMaster announced that the Joe Fletcher Memorial Award will be presented to “Stan Davies” at Rockton on February 14th.

Andrew Spoelstra attended the Canadian Young Farmers Conference in Calgary representing the local agriculture community. Young farmers from across the world attended, it was a rewarding and great experience.

Cathy McMaster represented the rural agriculture community on the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative Committee. They work together to promote job creation, retention and employment opportunities. Cathy will update the committee at our meeting on the work this important committee is undertaking.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.