REPORT 09-001

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 26, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Ancaster Fairgrounds, Marritt Hall Board Room

Present: Carl Loewith, Chair
Philip Krakar, Cathy McMaster, Councillor David Mitchell, Robert Saccomano, Councillor Robert Pasuta, Roy Shuker, Nancy Mills, Dale Smith, Doug Cranston, Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, John Mantel, Andrew Spoelstra

Absent/Regrets: Henry Swierenga, Mel Switzer

Also Present: Susan Coverdale, Economic Development and Real Estate Division
Paul Shaker, Mayors Office
Bill Young and Vince Ormond, Parking and By-law Services
Rob Clackett, Strategic Services – Special Projects

THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 09-001 TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND RESPECTFULLY ADVISES:

1. Municipal Law Enforcement - Rural Area – Sign By-law, Business Licenses, Enforcement Regulations (Item 5.1)

That all agriculturally related signs erected on public and/or private property by an agricultural farm operation be exempt from the sign by-law and in compliance with the traffic and pedestrian safety standards of the City of Hamilton.

Economic Development and Planning Committee – March 24, 2009
2. **Update Status of Draft Rural Zoning By-law (Item 5.3)**

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee requests that the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) identified in the rural areas of the City of Hamilton be subject to requirements and fees that allow for the long term viability of the agricultural community thereby allowing this sector to grow and prosper.

3. **Application for Registered Agricultural Provision for Garbage Container Limits – Documentation for review (Item 5.4)**

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee supports the "Application for Registered Agricultural Provision for Garbage Container Limits" to be forwarded to registered farm businesses in the City of Hamilton subject to the removal of the following three items currently on the draft application: Acreage, Main Source of Income and Gross Income.

4. **Input regarding the viability of Farmers’ Markets for Ancaster, Dundas West Hamilton, Stoney Creek and Waterdown (Item 5.5)**

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee requests that:

(a) A feasibility study be undertaken to determine if a farmers’ market would be viable at the Ancaster Agricultural Society;

(b) That $5,000 be charged to the City of Hamilton Economic Development Division budget along with an application for matching funds to be submitted to the appropriate Province of Ontario funding program lead by Councillor Ferguson.

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**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE**

(a) **Municipal Law Enforcement - Rural Area – Sign By-law, Business Licenses, Enforcement Regulations (Item 5.1)**

The Members of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee have previously requested that agriculturally related signs be exempt from the sign by-law and have again outlined their request in Item 1 of this report.

Economic Development and Planning Committee – March 24, 2009
(b) Update Status of Draft Rural Zoning By-law (Item 5.3)

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee wants to make the City of Hamilton staff and Council aware of their concerns with regards to the amount of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) designated lands within the rural areas of the City of Hamilton; thereby causing significant restrictions on agricultural farm development and have outlined their request in Item 2 of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Loewith, Chair
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

Susan Coverdale,
Business Development Consultant
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
February 26, 2009