MINUTES:  Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee  
Thursday, August 27th, 2009  
Ancaster Fairgrounds – Marritt Hall

Present:  Cathy McMaster, Roy Shuker, Andrew Spoelstra, Carl Loewith, 
Doug Cranston, Councillor Robert Pasuta, Susan Coverdale, Dale Smith, Philip Krakar, John Mantel, Henry Swierenga, Wilf Arndt, 
Michele Sergi, Councillor David Mitchell

Absent/Regrets:  Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, Robert Saccomano, Paul Shaker, 
Nancy Mills, Mel Switzer, Joe Gravina

Visitors:  Erich Remler, Albert Knab

CALL TO ORDER  
Chair Carl Loewith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  Chair Loewith welcomed all committee members, staff and visitors.

1.  CHANGES TO AGENDA – Item 5.1 of discussion items will not be addressed (sign by-law) staff cancelled to a later date.

2.  DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

3.  APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of May 28th, 2009.  Motion to approve by John Mantel, seconded by Cathy McMaster.  CARRIED.

PRESENTATION – 100 Mile Market.  Staff from the 100 mile market, a for profit company came and made a presentation to committee.  Erich Remler and Albert Knab gave us an overview of their company and it’s mandate.  To summarize the presentation, it was a rather negative presentation and all members of the ARAAC committee felt it was misdirected to this committee and not relevant to our mandate.
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Draft Sign By-law

Deferred to a later meeting, however the committee did put forward a motion to ensure this item does come before committee prior to approval at Council. **Motion:** The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee request that the proposed changes to the sign by-law appear before the ARAAC committee prior to approval at PE & D committee and Council. Forwarded by Doug Cranston, seconded by Dale Smith. CARRIED.

5.2 North Dufferin Agricultural Community Taskforce – Controversy over Competing Land Uses in North Dufferin

Council referred this item to our committee for review and comment, the following motion was put forward. **Motion:** The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee support the concerns of the North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT) and respectfully request that City of Hamilton Council endorse this request by writing a letter to NDACT indicating the City of Hamilton’s support as it pertains to this item. Forwarded by Roy Shuker, seconded by Cathy McMaster. CARRIED.

5.3 Feasibility of a Farmers Market at Ancaster Agricultural Society

Sue Coverdale gave an overview of the report prepared by Gary Johnson on behalf of the City of Hamilton as endorsed by the ARAAC members. Committee members recommended we receive the report and no further action will be required. This issue will be presented to the Ancaster Agricultural Society, Board of Directors for their review and feedback.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

ARAAC Committee Member Update

- John Mantel brought up resident concerns over ditch drainage and lack of resolution to these ongoing situations. Councillor Pasuta indicated he is working with staff to resolve this particular case.
- Roy Shuker gave us an overview of issues being addressed at the HWFA. Farmers are having increasing problems with ATV's on their private property. Hamilton Police did meet with the Federation and ask farmers to try to identify the culprit by getting license plate numbers. In a recent OFA newsletter it announced that the association was experiencing some financial difficulties due to
declining membership. The OFA is applying for an increase to $195.00 for the annual fee.

- Councilor Mitchell announced that the upcoming weekend was the Winona Peach Festival.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting was adjourned at 9.10 p.m.