MINUTES: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 22nd, 2010
Ancaster Fairgrounds – Marritt Hall

Present: Cathy McMaster, Carl Loewith, Councillor Robert Pasuta, Susan Coverdale, Nancy Mills, Mel Switzer, Councillor Lloyd Ferguson, Roy Shuker, Doug Cranston, Philip Krakar, John Mantel, Henry Swierenga

Absent/Regrets: Robert Saccomano, Wilf Arndt, Councillor David Mitchell, Andrew Spoelstra, Dale Smith, Kim Reep

Visitors: Joanne Hickey Evans, Bill Young, Carmela Vidic, Kirstin Maxwell, Joseph Muller

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Carl Loewith called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Chair Loewith welcomed all committee members, staff and visitors.

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA – none

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

3. REQUEST FOR DELEGATION – Susan and Len Agostini – re: Fence By-law Items # 51. Moved by Mel Switzer, seconded by Cathy McMaster – Approved

   Mr. and Mrs. Agostini made a presentation to the committee regarding their concerns with the fence by-law and specifically fences that are of significant height and obstruct the view of farmer’s ponds and various liabilities.

   The ARAAC committee moved to accept the information as presented with no further action.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of February 10th, 2010. Motion to approve by Roy Shuker, seconded by Nancy Mills. CARRIED.
5.1 PRESENTATION – Proposed Fence By-law /Committee Report – Carmela Vidic - Staff made a presentation to the committee regarding report PED10084 seeking input and comments on several key issues as outlined below.

Item # 1

Staff is recommending that Section 3(6) (a) should remain as it had been originally written in the Draft By-law you received in your packages for the meeting:

(6) No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained a fence comprised of barbed wire, except:

(a) for a fence on a farm for the keeping of livestock;

Item # 2

The Committee’s comments/suggestions on the maximum height of fences for farms, the draft by-law will now read as follows:

(2) No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained a fence:

(a) Exceeding a height of 2.0m on a lot in any zone except a lot:

(i) in an industrial zone or

(ii) used as a farm;

(b) exceeding a height of 3.0m on a lot:

(i) in an industrial zone; or

(ii) used as a farm;

Item # 3

The Committee’s comments/suggestions on electric fences, the draft by-law will now read as follows:

(7) No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained a fence equipped to transmit an electric current, except for a fence on a farm for the keeping of livestock provided that the fence meets the requirements of any applicable Canadian Standards Association Standard.
Item # 4

In reference to fence heights for properties that are adjacent to open spaces, conservation areas etc. staff requires additional time to consult with Planning staff to ensure all aspects of this provision is taken into consideration and that it will align with the proposed amalgamated zoning by-law. Once completed, staff will send the recommendation/revisions to the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee for consideration prior to bringing the matter back to Economic Development and Planning Committee.

(a) That staff be directed to investigate in detail the suggestion to allow higher fences adjacent to open spaces, conservation areas etc. and to again consult with the Agricultural and Rural affairs Committee before reporting back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

Staff will provide the committee with more information following further investigation with the OFA, OMAFRA and various organizations recommended by the committee.

This report will be presented again at the next ARAAC meeting.

5.2 PRESENTATION - Draft new policies to be added to the Rural Official Plan – Kirstin Maxwell and Joanne Hickey Evans – Staff made a presentation to the committee regarding adding policies and associated schedules and appendices to the Rural Official Plan – Topics as follows

- Housing Policies
- Cultural Heritage Policies
- Community Facilities / Services Policies
- Health and Public Safety Policies
- Transportation Policies

These changes and policies have been circulated to staff and the public and are now seeking input and support from the committee. Staff were advised to go forward with the amendments as presented and vetted through the committee.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION – Councillor Pasuta updated the committee on issues that are being dealt with currently in his Ward and within the City of Hamilton 1) By-law regarding riding motorcycles, dirt bikes, ATV on roads and private property not being allowed. 2) Entrances to farm fields have been under scrutiny at the City of Hamilton as not legal driveways. 3) Farm Severances 4)
Sign By-law. All of these issues are something that he is currently working on with City staff.

7. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m., motion by Nancy Mills