City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
October 27th, 2005
Ancaster Marritt Hall

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Present: Roy Shuker, Carl Loewith, Cathy McMaster, Robert Pasuta, Mel
Switzer, Philip Krakar, Dale Smith, Robert Murphy, Doug Cranston,
Nancy Mills, Paul Mason, Joanne Hickey-Evans, Murray Ferguson,
Susan Coverdale, David Mitchell, Kirstin Maxwell, Michele Sergi,
Steve Wever – Monteith Brown

Absent: Henry Swierenga, Ralph Kikkert, Dave Braden

Chair Roy Shuker welcomed the members, made introductions and called the
meeting to order.

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

11.2 – Foreign Disease Simulation – Dairy/Veal Industry

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from August 25th, 2005

Nancy Mills moved that the minutes of June 23rd, 2005 be adopted
as presented; seconded by Cathy McMaster. CARRIED

4. DELEGATION REQUESTS – none

5. CONSENT ITEMS – none

6. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS - none

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS
7. 1 Official Plan Policies for Agricultural and Rural Land Use –
Staff from Long Range Planning and Monteith Brown Planning
Consultants gave the committee an overview of the work staff are
undertaking in preparing a new official plan policy for the City of
Hamilton. This meeting specifically addressed the rural content
asking this committee for specific direction and outlining the various
policy options for the new official plan. Paul Mason outlined that
much of the work will have to follow the guidelines of the Provincial
Policy Statement and Greenbelt Legislations. Topics discussed
included (see copy of powerpoint presentation attached):

1. What is a “farm”? What are normal farm practices
2. What is “secondary to farming”? What is “related” to
   agriculture?
3. What kind of severances are OK?
4. What to do with existing incompatible uses?

In each case possible options were presented to the committee. In
the case of topic #1 – the committee was very specific that the new
official plan must generally permit all types of agriculture use.
Discussion on this topic emphasized that traditional agriculture
while an important part of the sector must be looking towards
emerging markets and trends. Strong emphasize was placed on
the fact that no form of agriculture in the City of Hamilton should
face any sort of restrictions, especially in light of the new Greenbelt
Legislation restricting owners from engaging in any other use on
these properties. Everyone was in agreement that it would be
unacceptable to place restrictions on any legitimate type of
agricultural uses including greenhouse, mushrooms, intensive
livestock, nurseries etc. and that detailed planning criteria and
conditions would also be unacceptable on agricultural development.
Topic #2 regarding secondary uses to farming appeared to receive
consensus that the City of Hamilton must permit a broad range of
related and secondary uses to agriculture but could be subject to
some limits and criteria related to items such as type, size and
location. Farmers need alternate sources of income to supplement
decreasing on-farm incomes and secondary uses on the farm would
be an excellent option. Topic #3 regarding severances has some
clear definition from the committee. Most members discourage any
severances other than those permitted under PPS/Greenbelt which
predominantly are limited to agricultural use only and the severance
of surplus residence as a result of farm consolidation. The
committee still felt that surplus residence severance must have
some restrictions such as size of severance or parcel of land that
accompanies the home. The committee also felt that a strict
covenant had to be tied to property severing the surplus residence
and that no new residence could ever be build on the property.
Topic #3 on what to do with existing incompatible use was
discussed and certainly members and staff felt that this topic would need to be dealt with on a larger format with lots more discussion and information brought back to the committee. In all cases Long Range Planning Staff and the Consultant Monteith Brown advised the committee this would be a work in progress with a great deal more information and input given to the committee with their required feedback throughout the process. This is a very important topic for this committee because their input will shape the future of the rural content of the new official plan. Next months meeting will focus on this topic (see copy of email attached).

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Growing Your Opportunities Conference – Carol Pupo and Sue Coverdale gave the committee a brief overview and handout on a potential conference to be held in Hamilton on March 28th 2006. This conference in partnership with OMFRA, City of Hamilton and local agriculture partners would focus on and investigate emerging trends in agriculture and new marketing ideas and strategies to adapt to today’s changing agricultural markets. This conference will be making the circuit across Ontario’s agriculture communities and has been receiving popular response. Members of the ARAAC were asked to think about participating in the organizing committee where their role would be to establish the content and speakers for this event. The City of Hamilton and OMAFRA will undertake the bulk of the responsibility and workload. It was decided that Sue Coverdale and Carol Pupo would attend the December 2nd conference in Port Hope and invite Roy Shuker – Chair ARAAC and Robert Pasuta – HWFA President to join them. Once they had attended the conference this group would bring feedback to committee members on the potential Hamilton conference.

9. MOTIONS none

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS - none

11. GENERAL INFORMATION

11.1 ARAAC Committee Member Update – none

11.2 Foreign Disease Simulation – Carl Loewith updated the
committee of an event taking place the 2nd week of December dealing with a simulation exercise on a foreign disease outbreak in the Veal/Dairy Industry. This event would examine all aspects on how this industry would deal with an emergency outbreak of disease looking into gaps in the agricultural response e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinarians, Emergency Mgt Ontario, farm owners and all processes necessary if an outbreak should occur. Carl will be sitting on the design committee setting the parameters for this simulation exercise. Murray Ferguson suggested Carl speak with Bill Pasel from our Emergency Planning Division. Sue Coverdale will forward an email to Carl and Bill making the necessary introductions so that Carl can get some feedback from Bill on Hamilton’s Emergency Preparedness Plan and also update him on this exercise.

12. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – none

13. ADJOURNMENT – Roy Shuker announced the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 24th, 2005
Ancaster Marritt Hall – Boardroom
7:30 p.m.

Note: November meeting will be an important meeting – (see copy of email attached). We will also be having a small Christmas gathering following the formal meeting.