REPORT 07-001

PESTICIDE SUB-COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 25, 2007
10:00 a.m.
Room 264, 2nd Floor
City Hall, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Chair B. McHattie
Vice Chair R. Pasuta
Councillors B. Bratina, B. Clark

Also Present: R. Hall, S. Walsh, Public Health Services Department
A. Dore, K. Fernandes, Public Works
R. Gatto, Community Services
M. Walker, Mayor’s Office
C. Biggs, Legislative Assistant
S. Singh, H. Donaldson, Green Venture

THE PESTICIDES SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 07-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair (Item 1)
   (a) That Councillor B. McHattie be appointed Chair of the Pesticides Sub-Committee;
   (b) That Councillor R. Pasuta be appointed Vice Chair of the Pesticides Sub-Committee.

2. Terms of Reference for the Pesticide Sub-Committee
   That the Terms of Reference for the Pesticide Sub-Committee, attached hereto as Appendix “A”, be approved, as amended.

Board of Health – February 26, 2007
FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD:

(a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair (Item 1)

See Item 1.

(b) Approval of Minutes (Item 2)

The Minutes of the September 25, 2006 meeting of the Pesticides Sub-Committee were adopted and received as presented.

(c) Presentations:

Sapphire Singh, Natural Gardening Program Co-ordinator, Green Venture

(i) Naturally Hamilton 2006 Year End Report

Highlight deliverables and achievements in 2006 including, but not limited to:

- Had planned on conducting 8 workshops; however, due to funding restrictions, could not be done
- Published 8 gardening articles in Hamilton Spectator, Naturally Hamilton website and Dundas Star)
- Naturally Hamilton Display – surpassed goal of 15 displays, totalling attendance at 22 community events
- Presentations to Dofasco Health and Safety Department and Kirkendall Neighbourhood Association
- Visited 22 summer camps and over 400 children (Children’s Summer Dandelion Festival)
- Point of Purchase Pilot Program – will be expanding in 2007; however, funding/staff barrier
- Baseline survey of retailers and landscapers conducted in 2006
- Green Gardening at the RBG – secured participation in 2007
- Gardening with Nature Awards – funding barrier; partner with Dundas chapter of the Conserver Society

Distributed promotional materials; barriers to meeting objectives – funding

Comments and Recommendations:

- Naturally Hamilton needs to further develop its relationship with providers of lawn care service and products in order to reach target demographic
- Pilot organic gardening projects should appear on the Naturally Hamilton web site as encouragement for other community groups
• Enhance public awareness of Naturally Hamilton’s valuable resources – Yard Improvement Helpline and fact sheets – by working more closely with popular media, community newsletters and publication opportunities.

Following the presentation, the Committee offered the following comments:

• Organization should track the media stories, media scan to include articles that occur, synopsis of radio interviews to develop an “earned media report” which will indicate the value – will allow promotion of story in front of public; extrapolating “hits”; important to indicate type of success; request to provide information to committee members.

• Presentation is missing photo of “everyday” common surrounding i.e., individual property/homeowner.

• Has any thought been given to distributing the brochures to schools; would be beneficial to have students take brochure home to parents; not been explored, but is a possibility; suggestion to pilot a couple of schools; several high schools also have environmental programs; duo purpose to educate children for the future, and to take the message home to parents.

The report was received.

(ii) Naturally Hamilton 2007 Funding Proposal

Sapphire Singh outlined the following 2007 funding proposal:

• Oracle poll will serve as the basis for 2007 action plan to focus on target.

• Program components include 8 workshops (partner with garden centres, landscapers) to participate as co-sponsors.

• 6 pesticide-free gardening articles, displays.

• Targeting 15 community events/public spaces.

• Presentations, new ideas, developing expert panel (round table).

• Expanding the Naturally Hamilton website to include pesticide-free pride campaign; pilot projects and progress reports.

• Work with garden professionals to develop new series of fact sheets.

• Budget and funding – adjusted budget for 2007 and projection for 2008 so as not to rely heavily on outside funding.

The report was received.
(d) Background Information

(i) Item 22 of Committee of the Whole Report 02-024 respecting the establishment of the Pesticide Sub-Committee

Received.

(ii) DRAFT Terms of Reference

Staff advised that the Terms of Reference, as distributed, required an amendment to reflect the change in the composition of the Pesticides Sub-Committee, as approved by Council on May 11, 2004. As a result, the section setting out “representation” was no longer required and deleted from the Terms of Reference. Item 2 of this report requests approval of the Terms of Reference, as amended.

(e) Pesticide Education Campaign (BOH07005) (City Wide)

On a motion, Report BOH07005 respecting the pesticide Education Campaign, was referred back to staff with direction that Green Venture be given the opportunity to review and provide input into the report.

(f) Other Business

Councillor Pasuta advised that he would like to see a by-law that does not include the rural area (agriculture), but that there is a need to identify parts of urban areas that are in rural areas. The Sub-Committee recognized that legal counsel will be required to deal with certain issues. Look at staged implementation that would take anomalies into consideration.

Staff advised that they will come back with a report outlining various options, e.g., outright ban, exemptions, etc.

(g) Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor B. McHattie
Chair

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
January 25, 2007

Board of Health – February 26, 2007
Terms of Reference
City of Hamilton
Pesticides Sub-Committee

GOAL
1. To assist the City of Hamilton with the development of a policy to reduce non-essential chemical pesticide use on private green space except when used for the purposes of agriculture.

PURPOSE
2. The purpose of the Pesticides Sub-committee shall be to explore the health, legal, financial, and practical issues associated with a variety of policy options that could be used to reduce private non-essential pesticide use. To that end, the Pesticides Sub-committee shall consider each of the following and if desired:

2.1 Review the health, legal and cost implications associated with the following policy options:

2.1.1 Development of an intensive education and social marketing campaign;

2.1.2 Encouragement of industry self-regulation through the voluntary Integrated Pest Management (IPM) accreditation process being initiated by the IPM Council of Ontario;

2.1.3 Adoption of a by-law that incorporates one or several of the following options:

- Sets clear rules about the signage and notification requirements that must precede and follow pesticide application on private property.
- Requires industry administered IPM accreditation of all companies applying pesticides on private greenspace within the City of Hamilton.
- Limits the frequency and/or timing of pesticide application.
• Specifies buffer zones around the properties of sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, sensitive individuals) and waterways; and/or
• Prohibits pesticide use on private green space throughout the City with or without a phase-in period.

2.2 Conduct five separate consultation meetings with business groups, community/environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, service agencies, and the general public that may have a particular interest in the issue.

2.3 Solicit the opinions of the broader public through e-mails, hot lines, and other available communication means.

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

3. The Pesticides Sub-Committee shall be composed of four members of Council.

4. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume the role and rights of the Chair. (Note: This was formerly 5.2)

SUPPORT SERVICES

5. The City of Hamilton Public Health Services shall provide for the administrative costs of operating the Pesticides Sub-Committee, including the cost of meeting places.

6. The City of Hamilton shall provide the Pesticides Sub-Committee with reasonable access to the City’s consultants and facility operators, including, but not limited to, the Public Health Services.

MEETINGS

7. The Pesticides Sub-Committee shall meet once a month. Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Pesticides Sub-Committee.

8. A meeting schedule shall be prepared and shall be forwarded to the Pesticides Sub-Committee members for information.

9. The location of meetings shall be at locations, as designated by the Pesticides Sub-Committee.
10. The meetings shall be open to the public.

11. The meeting shall be advertised one week in advance of a schedule meeting.

MINUTES AND AGENDA

12. The Minutes of the Pesticides Sub-Committee meetings shall be prepared and distributed by the Legislative Assistant. Amendments to the Minutes, as necessary, shall be included and dealt with in the subsequent meeting of the Pesticides Sub-committee.

13. The Pesticides Sub-Committee Chairperson shall propose the Pesticides Sub-Committee agenda. The Chairperson may grant requests for discussion of items not on the Agenda.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

14. Any amendment(s) to these Terms of Reference shall be forwarded to the Board of Health and Council for approval.