MINUTES
Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 28, 2011
Room 264, City Hall, 71 Main Street West

Present:
Councillors: B. Johnson, J. Partridge, R. Pasuta
Wilfred Arndt, Gary Hyde, Doug Cranston, Fritz Trauttmansdorff,
Cathy McMaster, Phil Krakar, Roy Shuker, Andrew Spoelstra,
Dale Smith, Nancy Mills, John Mantel

Also present:
Kim Reep – OMAFRA
Joe Gravina, Joanne Hickey-Evans – Planning
Bob Butrym, Chris Shrive – Public Works
Susan Coverdale – Economic Development
Alexandra Rawlings – Clerk’s

Absent/Regrets:
Councillor L. Ferguson, R. Saccomano

Visitors:
Debbie Murphy, Lloyd Davis, Lew Cafuso, Robin Jones,
Louise Jones, Nola Spence, Ken Pritchard, Dale Switzer,
Jenny Jones, Larry Murphy, Laverne Gaddye – all associated with
Glanbrook Wind Action Group

CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Pasuta called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed all Committee
members, staff and visitors.

Everyone present introduced themselves.

A. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Clerk requested nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions.
Doug Cranston was nominated for Chair (Mills/Arndt). There were no other nominations.

Doug Cranston was declared Chair of the Committee.

Andrew Spoelstra was nominated for Vice Chair. (Smith/Shuker). There were no other nominations.

Andrew Spoelstra was declared as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA** – the Clerk advised that Councillor Johnson had requested that Truck Routes be added to the Agenda.

   On a Motion (Arndt/Mills) the Agenda was approved, as amended.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

   Gary Hyde noted that he has interests in the wind turbine business.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

   3.1 **Wind Turbines - Debbie Murphy, Glanbrook Wind Action Group**

   Debbie Murphy provided an overview of her group’s concerns respecting wind turbines, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation. A copy of the presentation was printed in the Agenda, and Ms. Murphy provided binders to the Committee, containing additional information.

   Ms. Murphy emphasized that she was not against wind turbines but wanted an immediate moratorium on their placement until appropriate medical and other studies had been carried out. Ms. Murphy suggested that a 550 metre setback was not adequate.

   Committee discussed the issue and had additional information supplied by the speaker.

   Councillor Johnson noted that Ms. Murphy had previously made this presentation to GIC, and that Committee had directed the presentation be made to this Committee.

   Chair Cranston thanked Ms. Murphy for her presentation.
Ms. Murphy and her group left the meeting.

Committee continued their discussion on the wind turbine issues.

Dale Smith proposed the following Motion:

That the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee support a Moratorium on Wind Turbines until health studies have determined the appropriate setbacks required.

There was no seconder.

Kim Reep, OMAFRA, noted that Hugh Fraser, from her office, would be available to speak to the Committee about wind turbines.

The Clerk read the Motion from GIC which had referred the wind turbine issue to the Committee. Comments from the Committee were requested, and these comments will be considered by GIC at the same time as a report from Public Health.

Committee agreed they need to hear more on the wind turbine issues, before they made any recommendation. Dale Smith withdrew his Motion, with the agreement of the Committee.

(Cranston/Smith)

That Committee defer consideration of the wind turbine issue to their next meeting of June 23, 2011, and that a representative from the City’s Public Health staff, and a representative from OMAFRA, Hugh Fraser, be invited to make presentations at the meeting.

CARRIED

Susan Coverdale agreed to talk to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture about the issue and to gather any information they have.

John Mantel suggested that any relevant information should be circulated to Committee ahead of that meeting.

Committee agreed that the matter of wind turbines should be the main item on the June Agenda.

3.2 Update on source water protection - Chris Shrive, Public Works, and Joanne Hickey Evans, Planning
Chris Shrive gave a powerpoint presentation on source water protection, and provided copies of the presentation to all members.

Committee discussed the presentation and had additional information provided by Mr. Shrive and Ms. Hickey-Evans.

Chair Cranston thanked staff for their presentation.

3.3 Truck Routes (Added Item)

Councillor Johnson provided an update on the matter. She noted that she had discussed the truck route issue with Sergeant Myra James, Hamilton Police Services Community Response Unit, and expressed the concerns of farmers about recent enforcement of the by-law.

James had noted that some of the newer officers needed further education about the enforcement of the by-law, and that an appropriate orientation would be provided to them.

Councillor Johnson asked that farmers maintain the integrity of the roads and stick to the approved truck routes, as much as possible.

Bob Butrym, Public Works, addressed the issue and noted points including, but not limited to, the following:

- some amendments needed to by-law, to allow certain exemptions for farmers, if this can be done from a legal perspective. These will be considered by Truck Route Sub-Committee this year
- police normally enforce on complaint, but can always use discretion
- some municipalities may provide specific exemptions in their by-laws
- the truck route issue had not previously been brought to the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee.

Committee continued their discussion and considered whether the by-law might provide exemptions where drivers could show specific identification, such as NFU card.

Mr. Butrym considered this approach would be problematic. He suggested that a presentation from staff on the issue should be made to the Committee.

(Shuker/Smith)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee assist Public Works and the Truck Route Sub-Committee in formulating a plan to alleviate the problems
currently encountered with farm trucks and the enforcement of the Truck Route By-law.

CARRIED

Chair Cranston thanked Mr. Butrym for attending the meeting.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

(i) Meeting arrangements

Committee agreed that future meetings would be held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, at City Hall. The frequency of meetings would be determined by Committee, but meetings should not last more than two hours.

(ii) Grant Applications

Sue Coverdale will undertake the necessary work to bring the grant applications to the next meeting. Grant applications will be placed on the next Agenda.

(iii) Next meeting

Committee agreed that the next meeting would take place as follows:

Thursday, June 23, 2011, at 7:00 pm
Room 264, Hamilton City Hall

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion (Mills/Mantel), the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Chair Cranston thanked everyone for their attendance.

Doug Cranston, Chair
Agricultural and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Alexandra Rawlings, AMCT
Co-ordinator
Committee Services/Planning/Advisory
April 28, 2011