

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
REGIONAL CHAIR'S AGRICULTURAL TASK FORCE

REPORT 4-2011

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Chair's Agricultural Task Force held in Campbell East 102, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, September 23, 2011 commencing at 9:12 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hodgson (Chair); Jeffs, Petrowski; Messrs Picard, Schenck, Troup, Wiens; Ms. Janes, Ms. Vaughn.

Staff: Messrs. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; Teichroeb, Acting CEO Niagara Economic Development Corporation; Ms. Donia, Project Manager; Ms. Dawn, Legislative Assistant.

Other: Mr. Bill Ingratta, Director, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre; Ms. Reep, Regional Information Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Mr. Dave Alexander, Executive Director, Niagara Workforce Planning Board.

QUORUM

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to seven (7) members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 120-2010.

PRESENTATIONS

9. **Opportunities for Bonsai**

Mr. Leon Martin, Secretary of the Niagara Bonsai Society, appeared before the Committee to present the opportunities for bonsai in the Niagara Region. Mr. Martin is seeking assistance in contacting nursery operators interested in the cultivation of local trees for use in bonsai gardens prior to his attendance at the Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Convention in Takamatsu, Japan in November. He suggested the plantings could be sold, leased or rented to interested groups (i.e. hotels). Mr. Martin stated the Niagara Region has ideal conditions to grow a wide variety of trees which would be, in his opinion, advantageous in expanding bonsai production to national and export markets.

Mr. Andy Komaki, Account Executive of JTB International (Canada) Ltd., appeared before the Committee to provide details of travel arrangements which could be made for persons interested in attending the Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Convention in Takamatsu, Japan.

Moved by Mr. Schenck
Seconded by Mr. Picard

That the presentation by Mr. Martin and Mr. Komaki respecting Opportunities for Bonsai, be received for information.

Carried.

(A copy of Mr. Martin's and Mr. Komaki's presentation is attached to these minutes.)

QUORUM

There being a lack of ordinary quorum at the meeting, the Committee Chair determined that the ordinary quorum for the meeting be reduced to nine (9) members, pursuant to Section 22.10 of the Procedural By-law 120-2010.

10. Rural Workforce Stakeholder Meeting

Mr. David Alexander, Executive Director of Niagara Workforce Planning Board, informed the Committee of an upcoming Rural Workforce Stakeholder Meeting to be held in January 2012 (specific date to be announced). The focus of the meeting will be to investigate the broad range of issues/concerns in rural Niagara and evaluate where there are opportunities for these issues/concerns to be resolved. Mr. Alexander informed the Committee he will forward the details of the meeting to staff for distribution as soon as it is available.

Moved by Mr. Schenck
Seconded by Mr. Picard

That the presentation by Mr. Alexander respecting the Rural Workforce Stakeholder Meeting, be received for information.

Carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

11. Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming
Action Plan 2021 – Summary
ATF 28-2011

Moved by Mr. Wiens
Seconded by Mr. Schenck

That this Task Force recommends to the Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That correspondence item ATF 28-2011 respecting the Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Action Plan 2021 – Summary, be received and endorsed; and

That the Regional Municipalities of Durham, York, Peel and Halton, the Cities of Toronto and Hamilton, and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation be so advised.

Carried.

(A copy of correspondence item ATF 28-2011 is attached to these minutes.)

CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12. Moved by Mr. Troup
Seconded by Mr. Wiens

That the following correspondence items be received for information:

ATF 19-2011	Email from Ms. R. Nuaimy-Barker attaching minutes from the Meat Processing Phone Call held on May 30, 2011.
ATF 20-2011	Sustain Ontario June 2011 Newsletter – Meat Processing
ATF 21-2011	CFFO Commentary by John Clement, July 1, 2011: “Management Groups Can Hone the Skills of Farmers”
ATF 22-2011	CFFO Commentary by John Clement, July 15, 2011: “Decades of Dynamic Change for Ontario Agriculture”

- ATF 23-2011 Correspondence (dated July 16, 2011) from Mr. J. Schonberger (President) of the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture to Regional Council requesting the Regional Agricultural Sub-Committee resume meeting on a regular basis.
- ATF 24-2011 CFFO Commentary by John Clement, August 26, 2011: "Creating New Options for Preserving our Top Farmland"
- ATF 25-2011 Letter from the Hon. Rick Bartolucci, OMAFRA, dated September 6, 2011, requesting more information regarding the scope and objectives of the proposed Task Force
- ATF 26-2011 An article from the Ontario Planning Journal, September/October, Vol. 26, No. 5, entitled "Adding value through diversification" by P. Robson, D. Semple, M. L. Tanner and M. Walton.
- ATF 27-2011 An article from the Ontario Planning Journal, September/October, Vol. 26, No. 5, entitled "Greater role for planners urged" by D. Semple and W. Caldwell.
- Carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

13. **Minutes – Regional Chair’s Agricultural Task Force
June 9, 2011**

Moved by Mr. Wiens
Seconded by Mr. Troup

That the minutes of the Regional Chair’s Agricultural Task Force meeting of June 9, 2011, be received for information.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. **Premier’s Award for Agri-Food
Innovation Excellence**

Ms. Reep invited the Committee to submit nominations for the Premier’s Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. Nominations will be accepted until November 14, 2011. For more information, please visit http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/premier_award/index.html.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m. to meet again at a date to be determined.

Councillor Hodgson
Chair

Natasha L. Dawn
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain
Regional Clerk