

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

**REPORT 3-2011**

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Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Chair's Agricultural Task Force held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Thursday, June 9, 2011 commencing at 1:05 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

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

Staff: Messrs. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning; 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; Ms. Margaret Walton, Planscape.

**PRESENTATIONS**

1. Update on Food and Farming Strategy

Ms. Margaret Walton, Planscape, provided the Committee with an update as to the status of the Food and Farming Strategy. She explained that the strategy focuses on the most important tasks for sustaining and encouraging local agricultural operations and it attempts to create uniformity across the Niagara Region.

2. Agricultural Action Plan  
**ATF 17-2011**

Mr. Robson, Commissioner of ICP, and Ms. Donia, Project Manager, invited the Committee to examine each task in the Agricultural Action Plan and provide suggested changes as necessary.

Moved by Ms. Janes  
Seconded by Councillor Joyner

That the Agricultural Task Force recommend Regional Council support the establishment of a Task Force with membership from Provincial ministries, Niagara Region, agricultural groups and preservationists (PALS) to explore tools to enhance long-term land preservation in the fruitbelt.

Carried.

It was requested that Ms. Walton provide some input as to the tasks listed in the Agricultural Action Plan. Ms. Walton agreed and stated she would correspond with Mr. Robson.

3. Incentives for Agriculture – Update

Mr. Robson informed the Committee that a draft version of the Incentives for Agriculture will be available in the near future.

4. Updates – Powerline Films & Niagara Culinary Trail

Ms. Donia notified the Committee that several local farm operations have been selected as part of the Powerline Films promotion on agriculture in the Niagara Region. Filming will be starting shortly.

Staff are investigating the best practices of other municipalities as to their local culinary trail systems. A stakeholder meeting will take place within the next couple of months.

**CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence items were received for information:

ATF 12-2011	Correspondence (undated) Official Nomination Form: Ontario's Local Food Champions from Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
ATF 13-2011	Email (dated May 11, 2011) from Ravenna Nuaimy-Barker, Director, Sustain Ontario, re: Meat Processing Conference Call
ATF 14-2011	CFFO Commentary (dated May 20, 2011) by John Clement re: Key Questions for a Changing Agriculture
ATF 15-2011	Email (dated May 26, 2011) from Ravenna Nuaimy-Barker, Director, Sustain Ontario, re: Provincial Conference Call re: Meat Processing
ATF 16-2011	Email (dated May 27, 2011) from Ravenna Nuaimy-Barker, Director, Sustain Ontario, re: Fwd: Meat Processing Opportunity for Producers and Processors – May 31
ATF 18-2011	Email (dated June 1, 2011) from John O’Gorman re: The city launched something slightly more radical: the Toronto Food Business Incubator project, meant to assist new food processors in finding their feet

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

6. **Minutes – Regional Chair’s Agricultural Task Force  
April 8, 2011**

The minutes of the Regional Chair’s Agricultural Task Force meeting of April 8, 2011, were received for information.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

7. **Greenbelt Comments**

Councillor Hodgson reminded the Committee to submit their comments to the Province on the effects of the Greenbelt legislation.

8. **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Poultry Fest**

Councillor Joyner invited all to attend the Township of West Lincoln’s 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Poultry Fest on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3:17 p.m. to meet again at a date to be determined.

Councillor Hodgson  
Chair

Natasha L. Dawn  
Legislative Assistant

Kevin Bain  
Regional Clerk