

CLARINGTON AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Barrie
Gary Jeffery
Ted Watson
Mark Bragg
Eric Bowman
Brenda Metcalf
Henk Mulders
Donald Rickard
Mary Ann Found
Ross McMaster
Marlene Werry
Councillor Gord Robinson

STAFF: Faye Langmaid
Susan Hajnik

REGRETS: Jennifer Knox
Orwin Bandstra

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

07-04 *Moved by Gary Jeffery, seconded by Eric Bowman*
"That the Agenda for March 8, 2007 be adopted"

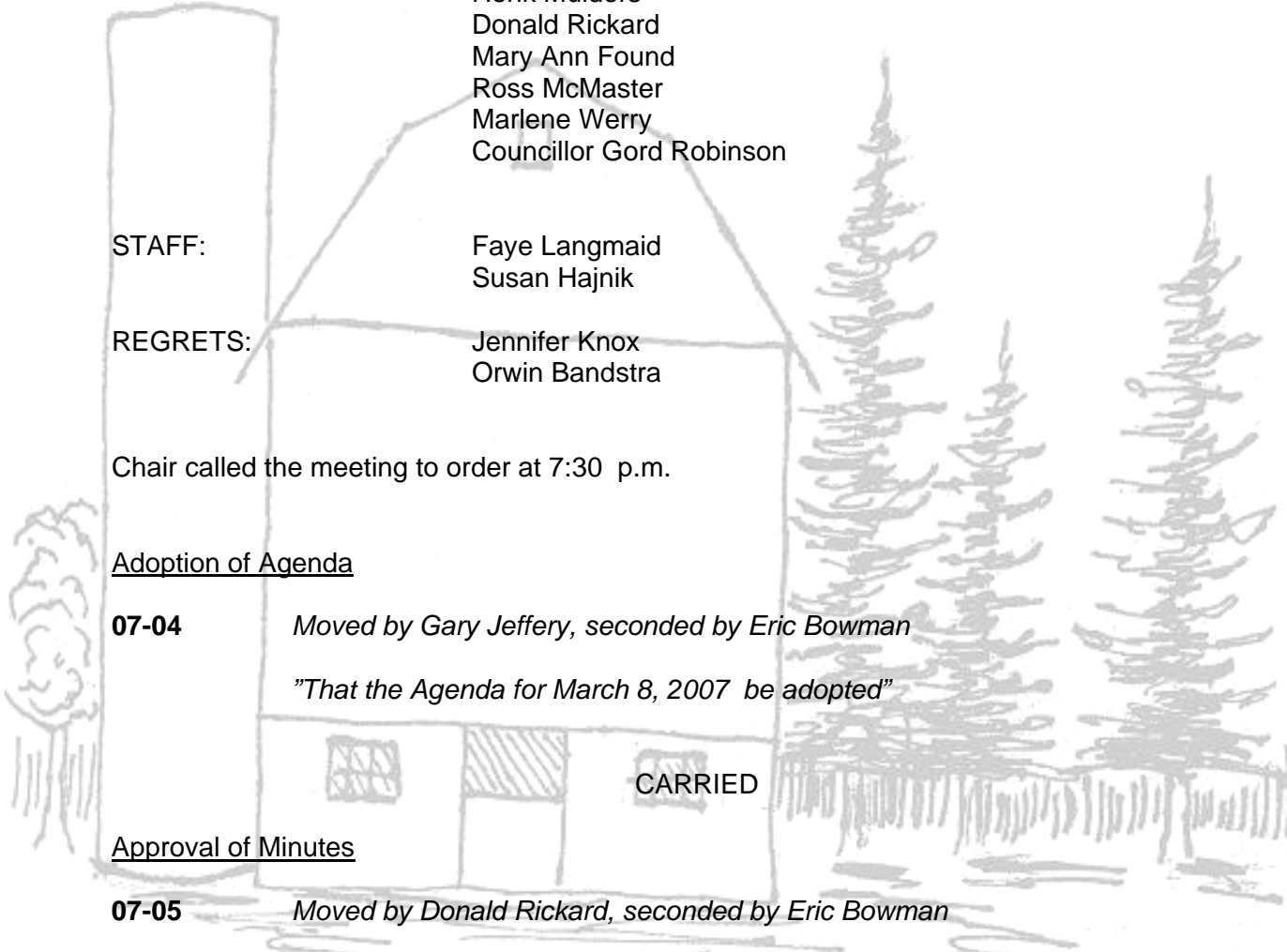
CARRIED

Approval of Minutes

07-05 *Moved by Donald Rickard, seconded by Eric Bowman*

"That the minutes of the February 15, 2007 meeting be approved."

CARRIED



Municipal Treasurer Nancy Taylor offered the following comments in response to two motions that were suggested by a previous committee member regarding lowering or deferring agricultural taxes in Clarington:

- The reduction of agricultural taxes that took place in 2004 is in its final year. Taxes were reduced from 21.67% to 20% in 2007.
- 91% of the tax rate in Clarington is on residential and agricultural property while 9% is on commercial, industrial or utilities
- If you shift the taxes from agriculture you put it on residential, which would affect the property tax of the farmers own homes.
- A 1% tax increase is equal to approximated 8.20 cents per household. 8.89% is \$73 for the average household valued at \$253,000.

Business Arising from Minutes

The Durham Region Agriculture and Environmental Advisory Committees with the Durham Land Stewardship Council are presenting an Agricultural Stewardship seminar "*Increasing Your Farm's Productivity through Environmental Improvements*" on Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the Latcham Centre in Port Perry. The seminar will provide information on the opportunities to improve farm productivity through programs and services for on-farm environmental improvements and Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs). Seminar starts at 9:30 and runs until 2 pm. Lunch is included, registration is free, limit of 100 people. Please contact the Durham Region Planning Department if you wish to register.

Reports from Other Committees

DAAC

Newtonville Road, north of Highway 2 to the 5th Concession will be undergoing guardrail replacement and localized ditch repair.

MTO is expected to have a plan in place for their Slow Moving Vehicle signs.

407 Committee

The 407 Committee is trying to determine factors that should be considered in the Environmental Assessment, and their importance to area residents. A list was circulated and members were asked to fill in the percentage of consideration each item should be given. The 407 Committee will use this data when determining the important criteria.

There is a new set of routes on the table. The short list of viable routes will now be taken through the EA process. Since the original "preferred route" things have changed: new subdivisions have been built, new environmental assessment information has made some of the original routes less desirable.

Durham Federation of Agriculture

DFA will host an all candidates meeting (provincial) on September 25, 2007 at the Port Perry Community Centre. All welcome.

OFA restructuring continues.

Stable funding talks continue.

Other Business

Farmers Parade of Lights

07-06` *Moved by Eric Bowman, Seconded by Henk Mulders*

“The Farmers Christmas Parade of Lights held annually on the first Wednesday of December has requested that the Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington sponsor the event for the purposes of obtaining the road closure permit, having a police escort and having the public attending the parade plus the farmers participating in the parade being covered by the municipal insurer.”

“CARRIED”

07-07 Moved by Ted Watson, Seconded by Donald Rickard

“WHERE AS the Clarington Council are on record as opposing the direct election of the Regional Chair at large;

WHERE AS agriculture is the leading industry in Clarington and the second largest in Durham Region;

THEREFORE the Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington is in total support of Clarington Council position for status quos of retaining the election of the Regional Chair by Regional Council”

“CARRIED”

Future Agendas

Rick Pigeon on procedures and fees for building permits
Jake DeBruyn from OMAFRA on alternative energy systems
Mayor Abernethy