

Meeting of the ROMA Board

Thursday, April 2, 2015

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**AMO Office
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Chair Ronald Holman, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes (Zone 7)
Past Chair Ron Eddy, Mayor, County of Brant (Zone 3)
First Vice-Chair Allan Thompson, Mayor, Town of Caledon (Zone 4)
Second Vice-Chair Chris White, Mayor, Township of Guelph-Eramosa (Zone 2)

Zone and AMO Rural Caucus Representatives

Bill Bilton, Councillor, Township of Dawn-Euphemia (Zone 1)
Eli El-Chantiry, Councillor, City of Ottawa, West Carlton-March Ward (Zone 8)
Liz Huff, Councillor, Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (AMO Rural Caucus)
Robert Pasuta, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Hamilton (Zone 3)
Jim Sheedy, Councillor, Township of Laurentian Valley (Zone 6)
Bill Vrebosch, Mayor, Township of East Ferris (Zone 9)
Chris Wray, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Municipality of Wawa (AMO Rural Caucus)

Staff:

Nancy Plumridge, ROMA Executive-Treasurer
Monika Turner, AMO Director of Policy
Cathie Brown, AMO Senior Advisor
Nicholas Ruder, AMO Policy Advisor
Lorna Ruder, AMO Executive Assistant

Regrets:

Liz Danielsen, Deputy Reeve, Township of Algonquin Highlands (Zone 5)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Holman welcomed new and returning ROMA Board members and staff to the meeting. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Declaration
 - Pecuniary interest – none
 - Early departure – Jim Sheedy

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

3. Approval of February 22 & 24, 2015 ROMA Board Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Jim Sheedy

“That the minutes be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

The February 22, 2015 minutes were amended to show that Eli El-Chantiry attended the meeting. The February 24, 2015 minutes were amended to show that Robert Pasuta attended the meeting in person, and Liz Huff participated by conference call.

4. Executive-Treasurer’s Report

Nancy Plumridge reviewed the financial statements. She advised that the audit is ongoing, and the audited year-end Financial Statements will be presented at the May meeting.

She provided an update on twitter usage during the conference. Board members discussed adding reciprocal followers, ability to add comments so that followers can reach Facebook, for a better barometer of what issues are out in the municipal world. Staff will bring this back to a ROMA Board meeting.

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Chris White

“That the Executive Treasurer’s Report be received.”

CARRIED

5. ROMA/OGRA Conference Agreement

Chair Holman advised that the committee reviewing the joint conference agreement would meet that afternoon.

6. ROMA mid-term meeting

The ROMA Board agreed to defer the mid-term meeting to 2016, and hold the Board meeting on June 11, 2015 at the AMO Office.

7. Professional Redbrick ROMA presentation

Chair Holman showed a video presentation from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and discussed creating something similar for ROMA as a way to present important issues, the Rural Lens, introduce ROMA to new councillors.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Robert Pasuta

"That staff investigate the cost of content and video development, and report back to the next meeting."

CARRIED

TIMED ITEMS

8. OGRA/ROMA Conference

Joe Tiernay, Executive Director of OGRA, provided an update on the 2015 Joint Conference, which was very successful. The ROMA Board confirmed that the ROMA members of the Joint Conference Review Committee are Ron Holman, Ron Eddy, Allan Thompson, Chris White and Bill Vrebosch.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

9. Ministry of Transportation – Off Road Vehicles

Nicholas Ruder briefed the Board on the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) current review of the statutory framework for off-road vehicle safety in Ontario.

Municipality of Central Huron Mayor Jim Ginn provided an update on an MTO consultation meeting he attended on ROMA's behalf. The ROMA Board and Mayor Ginn had a thorough discussion of the proposals currently under consideration.

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That ROMA write to the Ministry of Transportation seeking further clarification on its proposals for improving Off Road Vehicle safety, highlighting the concerns addressed in the memo and discussion."

CARRIED

10. EPODE Canada

Denis Edell, Executive Director, EPODE Canada, and Zsofia Zambo, Country Coordinator, EPODE Canada attended the meeting to introduce EPODE Canada to ROMA, and to discuss EPODE'S local level strategies to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity.

Moved by: Robert Pasuta
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

11. Grain Farmers of Ontario

Henry VanAnkum, Past Chair, and Debra Conlon, Government Relations of the Consultant Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFA), attended the meeting to discuss the use of neonicotinod seed treatment and pollinator health.

ROMA board members requested information on what ROMA'S participation in the GFA's Agriculture and Food Summit would look like. They also requested that they be kept informed of GFA's policy proposals, noting that ROMA has a responsibility to support agriculture industry (Chris White) and to support any issues relevant to ROMA (Ron Holman).

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

POLICY ITEMS

13. Policy Update

Planning Act Changes Update: Cathie Brown reviewed the highlights of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing presentation on Bill 73, the proposed *Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015*. ROMA board members expressed serious concerns about the costs of implementing these changes. Cathie Brown noted there would be an opportunity for comment after second reading.

The Board raised strenuous objection to mandatory Planning Advisory Committees at the upper tier in southern Ontario, citing many reasons of how this would increase confusion and administrative burden. The Board suggested that Bill 73 be amended to ensure that the "once a severance always a severance" principle be more fully

ensured as there are still cases of an intended merging of land titles. This becomes evident often during succession planning of agricultural properties.

Moved by: Liz Huff
Seconded by: Eli El-Chantiry

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

Waste Management Update on Proposed Legislation: Cathie Brown provided an update.

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

Rural Lens – Roll out of Materials 2015: Cathie Brown provided an overview of activities to date and planned activities to share the lens.

Moved by: Chris White
Seconded by: Allan Thompson

"That ROMA cover the costs of Dr. Wayne Caldwell's participation in the Rural Lens session at the AMO Conference in August."

CARRIED

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by: Chris White

"That the report be received."

CARRIED

Minimum Distance Separation: Cathie Brown advised that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) is proposing changes to the Minimum Distance Separation formulae and implementation guidelines.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That ROMA make a submission to OMFRA in support of the proposed changes, based upon staff's report."

Allan Thompson proposed a friendly amendment:

Moved by: Allan Thompson
Seconded by: Robert Pasuta

“That ROMA make a submission to OMFRA in support of the proposed changes, based upon staff’s report and similar principles to those provided by the Town of Caledon.”

CARRIED

REPORTS OF AMO and ROMA COMMITTEES

14. i) AMO Rural Caucus Report

AMO Rural Caucus Chair Ron Eddy and ROMA Chair Ron Holman reviewed the key issues from the AMO Board of Directors meeting. Bill Vrebosch requested that ROMA write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, endorsing AMO’s response to the Minister, who requested that AMO provide advice to him as to whether all municipal governments in Ontario should have access to the permissive additional tax tools provided to the City of Toronto in their 2006 Act as part of the *Municipal Act* review.

Moved by: Bill Vrebosch
Seconded by: Chris Wray

“That ROMA write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, endorsing AMO’s position agreeing to the Toronto revenue tools as an interim step and without prejudice to the member-driven results of the AMO fiscal sustainability project.”

CARRIED

ii) ROMA/OGRA Conference Committee Report

See item # 5.

ii) Rural Ontario Institute (ROI)

No report.

iv) Greenbelt Consolidation Policy Group

Allan Thompson provided an update on the Greenbelt Consolidation legislation that is coming forward.

v) Drainage Working Groups

Bill Bilton provided an update on the status of the working groups, which remain active. Many new members are participating. He advised that there would be a meeting the following week and he will report back at the next ROMA Board meeting.

vi) Other

No report.

Moved by: Ron Eddy
Seconded by: Bill Vrebosch

“That the Committee Reports be received.”

CARRIED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

14. Train Derailments

Deferred to the May ROMA Board meeting.

15. Private Well Supply (D 5 5 Ground Water Regulations)

Eli El-Chantiry discussed concerns in his area. The regulation has not been revisited since 1996. Staff will invite a representative from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to attend the next meeting.

15a. Transport Canada’s Aerodrome proposal

Allen Thompson expressed concern that the recent Notice of Proposed Amendment for Responsible Aerodrome Development would eliminate private airports. Staff will follow up.

15b. Landfill

Allan Thompson expressed concerns that good agricultural land is being used as fill. Robert Pasuta expressed his concerns about the contaminated material trucked dangerously from cities and dumped in rural areas. Staff will ask a ministry official to attend a ROMA meeting to discuss.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Moved by: Bill Bilton
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That the Information Items be received."

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

22. Other business brought forward by members

911 Ontario Advisory Board (OAB): Nicholas Ruder advised that the 911 OAB is in the process of reconstituting itself. When he has more information he will bring it to the ROMA Board.

ADJOURNMENT

23. Next meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2015, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., AMO Office, 200 University Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto.

24. Adjournment

Moved by: Chris Wray
Seconded by: Liz Huff

"That we do now adjourn to meet again."

CARRIED