

EEAC appointments are okayed but representation 'lack' challenged

Halton regional council has approved the appointment of six new members to its Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) but several concerns were expressed when approval was granted.

In accordance with last week's planning committee recommendation, the EEAC membership will total 21 with the addition of Dr. W.W. Martin of Limehouse, David Casson of Georgetown, Charles Ferguson of Oakville and Bob Edmondson, John Shaw and Graham Turner of Burlington.

The six were selected by the EEAC from among 28 applicants who expressed interest and offered to share their personal expertise in helping the advisory committee assist the region in environmental planning.

CHALLENGED APPOINTMENTS

Burlington Coun. Pat McLaughlin challenged the appointments at last Wednesday's council meeting calling the new EEAC roster "top-sided" because it has little representation for Halton industry. He said Mr. Ferguson is the only new appointee who can claim to represent any industrial interests. He asked to be provided with a list of all 21 EEAC members and their backgrounds to "see if they're meeting their original objective".

Coun. Roy Booth of Halton Hills told council that the planning committee, which he chairs, recommended the appointment of all six applicants whose names the EEAC had submitted to provide the EEAC with as wide a cross-section of backgrounds and interests as possible.

The EEAC, he said, had asked the planning committee to endorse four of the candidates for appointment and to select one of the other two applicants as well. Mr. Casson is president of Bio-Environmental Services Ltd. in Georgetown and as such can be considered a representative of local industry, he said.

NO DEGREES

Milton Mayor Don Gordon said he had received several calls from individuals interested in joining the EEAC who do not have university degrees. He asked whether "Layman" can join the EEAC as long as their qualifications are appropriate. Coun. Booth assured him they can.

Coun. Terry Mannell of Oakville noted that the legislation by which the EEAC was established allows for only 20

members at any one time and asked whether the EEAC is still legally convened with 21 members.

Coun. Booth said it will be necessary to amend the legislation to accommodate the extra member. He told Milton

Coun. Bill Johnson that all four area municipalities in Halton are adequately represented by the EEAC.

Cycle club rolling

The Cycling Touring Club, (Esqueping) not only has been formed, it has already had two rides and is planned a rally next month.

Harold deKleer, one of the original organizers of the group, says membership stands at 25 to 30 and enquiries are still coming in. "It took a few weeks to get people together," he said. "It looks good but we'll have to share the load. We still have things to do, like getting identification logos to carry on our backs so people will know we're here when we go riding".

The executive has not yet been finalized and there are still matters to complete in regards to affiliation with the Ontario Cycling Association but organizers are pleased with the response they have had thus far.

Mr. deKleer says 18 people showed up for the club's first ride to Speyside and back via back roads and nine people turned out for a ride to Acton on March 31.

"We had some fast riders on the first ride," he says. "They went on to Kelso and some even went up to Rockwood. Last time we just had a nice ride. It was a fine day to be out."

The group hopes to promote family bicycle rides rather than racing and will look at the possibility of holding seminars on better riding to encourage safer bicycling. Immediate plans are being made to hold a big ride and invite the public to join in next month.

Family memberships cost \$8 a year, singles are \$6, while junior (under 17 years of age) and associate memberships are \$4.

Mr. deKleer says memberships are still available and anyone interested in further information on the club can call him at 877-6543.

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