



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, September 20, 2024

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

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1. Information Reports	
There are no Information Reports.	
2. Early Release Reports	
There are no Early Release Reports.	
3. Confidential Reports Authorized for Release	
There are no Confidential Reports.	
4. Staff Correspondence	
There is no Staff Correspondence.	
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the need for Provincial Updates to the Municipal Election Act

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- Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on July 31, 2024, endorsing the resolution by the City of Toronto regarding Provincial Support for Family Physicians

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- Correspondence dated September 17, 2024, to the Minister of Transportation regarding the need for a Highway 401 Interchange at Townline Road in the City of Oshawa

8. Advisory / Other Committee Minutes

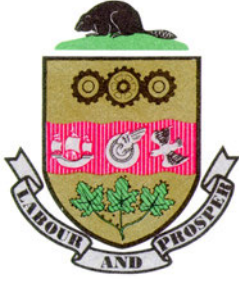
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- September 10, 2024

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at clerks@durham.ca, if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised not later than noon the day prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services



OSHAWA
ONTARIO, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF OSHAWA
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TELEPHONE (905) 436-5611
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MAYOR DAN CARTER

September 12, 2024

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Minister.mto@ontario.ca
Prabmeet.Sarkaria@pc.ola.org

RE: Highway 401 Interchange at Townline Road South

Dear Minister Sarkaria,

I am writing to advise that on February 26, 2024, City of Oshawa Council considered [ED-24-24 - Interchange at Townline Road](#) and approved the following resolution:

"That staff investigate the feasibility of adding a 401 interchange at Townline Road and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Region of Durham, the Municipality of Clarington and local MPPs and they be requested to investigate this proposed intersection from their individual perspectives."

On behalf of City of Oshawa Council, we urgently request your attention to a critical transportation issue affecting our community. As you are aware, the existing Harmony Road interchange on Highway 401 experiences significant congestion and delays, impacting both commuters and the movement of goods. We believe that an additional interchange at Townline Road would provide much-needed relief and enhance safety for all road users.

Here are the key points supporting our request:

1. **Traffic Volume:** Highway 401 is North America's busiest and most congested highway, with over 130,000 vehicles travelling past Harmony Road daily. The current reliance on the Harmony Road interchange alone exacerbates gridlock and hampers efficient transportation of people and goods.
2. **Population Growth:** The City of Oshawa and the Region of Durham are experiencing rapid population growth. As our region expands, so does the demand for efficient transportation infrastructure.
3. **Economic Impact:** A new interchange at Townline Road South would not only alleviate congestion but also boost our local economy. It would facilitate smoother movement of goods, reduce travel time for commuters, and enhance connectivity within the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Furthermore, the proposed interchange would benefit not only the City of Oshawa but also the neighbouring municipality of Clarington. Residents of Clarington who currently access the Harmony Road interchange via Bloor Street East would have an alternative route to Highway 401 using the Townline Road interchange. This diversification of access points would enhance overall traffic flow and reduce pressure on the existing interchanges.

Additionally, the Townline Road interchange would serve as a gateway to the industrial lands, providing enhanced servicing and promoting economic development in the region.

We understand that the recent expansion of Highway 401 in other municipalities has already addressed some of these challenges. However, given the continued growth in our area, we urge you to consider the following actions:


- **Feasibility Study:** Conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to assess the viability of an interchange at Townline Road. This study should evaluate traffic patterns, safety implications, and economic benefits.
- **Community Consultation:** Engage with local residents, businesses, and stakeholders to gather input and ensure that any proposed interchange aligns with their needs.

- **Timely Implementation:** If the study supports the feasibility of a Townline Road interchange, we request prompt action to move this project forward.

Minister Sarkaria, we appreciate your commitment to improving Ontario's transportation network. By addressing the congestion at the Harmony Road interchange and providing an additional access point via Townline Road South, we can enhance safety, reduce travel times, and support our growing community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to a positive response and collaboration in advancing this important project.

Yours truly,




Dan Carter
Mayor

Cc: Anthony Ambra, Commissioner of Economic and Development Services
Regional Municipality of Durham - Legislative Services
Municipality of Clarington – Legislative Services
Jennifer K. French, MPP (Oshawa)
Hon. David Piccini, MPP (Northumberland—Peterborough South)



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TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS
1012 Dwight Beach Rd
Dwight, ON POA 1H0

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	September 16, 2024 8:31 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

September 10, 2024

AMCTO
Attn: Advocacy Team
2680 Skymark Avenue, Suite 610
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L6

Via email: advocacy@amcto.com

RE: Municipal Elections Act Update

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, please be advised the above-noted correspondence was presented at the last regularly scheduled Council meeting on September 10, 2024 and the following resolution was passed.

“Resolution TC-227-2024

WHEREAS election rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the *Assessment Act, 1990* and the *Education Act, 1990* also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the *MEA* containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous

improvement are needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration.

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Township of Lake of Bays MPP (graydon.smith@pc.ola.org) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

Carried”

We look forward to hearing of the continued advocacy of this matter and further updates on when the Ministry will move ahead with amending the Municipal Elections Act

Sincerely,



Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC*,
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
CS/v

cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca),
Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca),
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca),
Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca)
Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca),
Township of Lake of Bays MPP (graydon.smith@pc.ola.org)



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department


Clerk's Office

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 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	September 16, 2024 8:37 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

September 13, 2024

Sent via email – councilmeeting@toronto.ca

John D. Elvidge,
City Clerk
City of Toronto

Re: Resolution Regarding Requesting the Province to Support Family Physicians

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated July 31, 2024, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The said correspondence was provided to Stratford City Council for their information as part of the September 9, 2024, Council meeting Consent Agenda (CA-2024-140). Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT CA-2024-140, being a resolution from The City of Toronto regarding Provincial Support for Family Physicians, be endorsed.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe Clerk

/mf

cc: Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities

City Council

Member Motions - Meeting 19

MM19.5	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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Requesting the Province to Support Family Physicians - by Councillor Dianne Saxe, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

City Council Decision

City Council on June 26 and 27, 2024, adopted the following:

1. City Council request the Minister of Health to take immediate action to:
 - a. properly compensate family physicians with appropriate fee increases; and
 - b. reduce the administrative burden that the Province places on family doctors so they have more time to see their patients.
2. City Council forward City Council’s decision to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the municipal Clerks of Ontario's municipalities.
3. City Council request a direct response from the Minister of Health within 30 days.

Summary

On May 13, 2024, the City of Belleville set a good example by passing a resolution calling upon the provincial government to improve compensation and reduce administrative burden for Ontario’s family physicians. Toronto should do the same.

The Province of Ontario is responsible for providing quality health care to all residents of Ontario. Family medicine is the backbone of the healthcare system and providing timely access to a primary health care provider for everyone in Ontario, is essential and should be a top Provincial Government priority. Instead, the shortage of family physicians has reached a crisis point.

Millions of Ontario residents, and hundreds of thousands of Torontonians, do not have a family doctor. Studies show that patients without a primary care provider have poorer health outcomes while costing the health care system more. Meanwhile, hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics are overloaded by residents’ unmet health care needs.

The Province of Ontario could address this issue quickly and efficiently by paying fair wages to family physicians and by lessening the undue administrative burden this provincial government imposes on family doctors.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM19.5

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-246768.pdf>)



JENNIFER FRENCH

MPP Oshawa
Députée provinciale d'Oshawa

September 17th, 2024

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Sarkaria,

As your Ministry is aware, Oshawa City Council passed a resolution on February 26th, 2024 requesting staff to investigate the feasibility of adding a 401 interchange at Townline Road. On March 21st, 2024, I wrote to you expressing my interest in meeting to discuss this opportunity (letter is attached). I am refreshing this request in light of the letter from Mayor Dan Carter dated September 12th, 2024 regarding the Townline interchange.

Mayor Carter and Oshawa City Council have outlined a few thoughtful points to make the case for this new interchange. I am happy to echo their call for Ministry attention to this matter. Please let my office know when we can coordinate a meeting to discuss Oshawa's transportation priorities.

Sincerely,



Jennifer French
MPP Oshawa

cc:

Dan Carter, Mayor, City of Oshawa
Anthony Ambra, Commissioner of Economic Development Services, City of Oshawa
Municipality of Clarington, Legislative Services
Regional Municipality of Durham, Legislative Services

Enclosure:

Letter dated March 21, 2024

COMMUNITY OFFICE

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JENNIFER FRENCH

MPP Oshawa
Députée provinciale d'Oshawa

March 21, 2024

Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Sarkaria,

There are many transportation projects and opportunities in the Oshawa area. I would request a meeting with you and your staff for an update on Ministry of Transportation projects in Oshawa, including widening of Highway 401, the improvement of the Highway 401 interchange at Harmony Road, the potential for plans for a new Highway 401 interchange at Townline Road, and Metrolinx's work on the Bowmanville GO Extension.

Please let us know when we can coordinate an update.

Sincerely,



Jennifer French

cc:

Dan Carter, Mayor, City of Oshawa

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 10, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair
R. Death, Whitby
N. Guthrie, Ajax
B. Hulshof*, Uxbridge
J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
H. Schillings, Member at Large
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
B. Smith*, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Somerville, Member at Large
D. Stevenson, Oshawa
N. Swain, Scugog
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock
W. Wotten*, Regional Councillor attended the meeting at 8:05 PM and left at 8:38 PM

*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: G. O'Connor, Member at Large

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Kelly, Manager, Policy and Special Studies, Department of Planning and Economic Development
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development

*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by M. Somerville, Seconded by G. Taylor,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Mary Anne Martin, Durham Food Policy Council – Durham Food System Strategy

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. See pages 4 and 5 of these minutes.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. Talling provided the following updates:

- Over the summer, Port Royal Mills relocated to the Township of Scugog, with plans to open by the end of October 2024. Port Royal Mills specializes in custom multigrain blends and has plans to further expand into the United States (US) market. They are currently looking for local growers of red fife wheat specifically.
- With respect to Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) – A. De Vos has been providing background data on Agri-business in the Region to support fertilizer expansion plans at the Oshawa Port. She advised the Committee that staff have provided annual fertilizer need estimates for Durham Region and pitched the business opportunity for HOPA to expand their fertilizer capacity at the Oshawa Port and has been connecting with the General Manager. Z. Cohoon added that the Port has built a new grain bin, and that they are going to expand their area in the next few years to add more fertilizer storage.
- Staff continue to promote the Apple Value Chain video campaign alongside Durham Farm Connections.

B) Brock Backyard Chickens

M. Scott advised that the Township of Brock sent him an email advising that they had received DAAC's previous motion with respect to backyard chickens and that staff had recently presented a report to Council, but Council chose to proceed in a different direction and allow backyard chickens in certain areas.

Discussion ensued regarding the Committee's position and the concerns that Z. Cohoon raised to Brock Council.

The Committee expressed their disappointment with the direction that Brock Council decided to take and suggested that their previous motion be re-sent to the Township of Brock to solidify their position regarding the backyard chickens issue.

C) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington - Update

T. Barrie advised that many concerns have been raised regarding the stop lights being built on regional roads, and that they are being built too close to the road so that a tractor with dual sets of wheels can't stay on their side of the center line without hitting the light post (ex. Enfield Road at the 8th Concession). He also advised that the lights at that location that run East/West stay green permanently, creating a safety hazard, and are only triggered if a car heading North/South is waiting.

T. Barrie stated that Tony Ricciardi, Manager of Infrastructure Planning & Services at the Municipality of Clarington spoke to the Committee regarding the 2024 rural capital projects that included new parks, new bridges, and more. He also advised that they discussed the definition of a farm building, and the banning of Rodenticide across the municipality.

D) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay advised that they are currently working on a new website and putting a budget together for that. In response to a question from the Committee he advised that this year's apple crop is very good, and that the United States (US) market controls Canadian prices for apples.

E) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised that there is no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update at this time.

F) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers advised that there was mainly housekeeping matters at the last Durham Region Federation of Agriculture meeting and that they were looking for help at the Touch-a-truck event.

G) On Farm Diversified Use/Agriculture Related Use Project Update

L. Talling advised that the project consultant, WSP, presented and facilitated a discussion at the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA) meeting on June 18, 2024. The public was invited to attend and staff received good feedback. She also advised that there was also an online survey that was live until mid July, and it received 58 responses. She further advised that WSP have provided draft

recommendations from the gathered feedback that have been reviewed by Regional Economic Development and Planning staff and staff from the three north Durham Townships, and draft recommendations will be presented to the Committee shortly.

In response to a question from the Committee, L. Talling advised that some of the key themes were that the agriculture community is looking for consistency across the three Townships, and that the process can be confusing and costly.

H) Provincial Planning Statement Update

M. Scott advised that the Province released the final Provincial Planning Statement that is set to go into effect October 20, 2024, with two relevant changes to agriculture. The two changes were the definition to “On Farm Diversified Use”, and clarification of some permissions with respect to additional residential units on prime agricultural land.

I) 2024 Farm Tour

D. Risebrough advised that the 2024 Farm Tour has been relocated to the Scugog Community Recreation Center and that it will now be presented as an agricultural education day instead.

D. Risebrough advised that the schedule for the day will appear roughly as follows:

- 10:30 AM – Registration
- 11:30 AM – Lunch with a presentation by OMAFRA
- 12:30 PM – Break out sessions with Matt Porter, Trent University; Jordan McKay, Durham Farm Fresh; Matt Somerville, and a presentation and display of agriculture transportation equipment
- 2:30-3:00 PM – Conclusion

D. Risebrough further advised that members will be needed from 8:00 AM to help set-up the room for the day.

At this time Mary Anne Martin attended the meeting.

4. Presentations

A) Mary Anne Martin, Durham Food Policy Council – Durham Food System Strategy

Mary Anne Martin, Durham Food Policy Council, appeared before the Committee with respect to the Durham Food System Strategy.

M-A. Martin reminded the Committee that the Durham Food System Report Card brings together existing food measure systems, identifies benchmarks, identifies gaps, and acts as a resource. She advised that they are hoping they can use the report card as a jumping off point for a food system strategy. The food system

strategy would be about actions that go beyond a simple to-do list and works to build knowledge and skills to help address food insecurity, affordability, farm security, protection of farmland, protecting farm workers, educating and encouraging people to join the farm sector, encouraging land trust, reducing food waste, strengthening relationships with the indigenous community, encouraging citizen engagement, and more.

M-A. Martin stated they want to identify approaches, actions, and performances measures, and then support the development of more public facing communications, materials, and activities to share regarding the food system strategy.

M-A. Martin stated that once the strategy was in place, they would then want to develop an implementation plan. She advised that the Durham Food Policy Council is currently looking for support for the idea of the food system strategy and asked if anyone wanted to be part of that conversation. M. Somerville and D. Stevenson stated that they would like to follow-up with M-A. Martin after the meeting to be a part of future conversations.

M-A. Martin responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there is any funding for this project and who they will be requesting funds from; if the Durham Food Policy Council is working with Feed the Need Durham; and whether a business plan and prospectus has been developed.

The Committee stated that it would be difficult to provide over-arching support without a business plan first, but that they can see some benefits from an educational standpoint with respect to knowing where food comes from.

6. Information Items

A) Consideration of Transition of Land Use Planning Matters to Facilitate the Introduction of a New Policy Statement Issued Under the Planning Act

A link to ERO #019-9065: The consideration of transition of land use planning matters to facilitate the introduction of a new policy statement issued under the Planning Act, was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

B) 2024 Provincial Planning Statement

A copy of the 2024 Provincial Planning Statement was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) #2024-INFO-51 – New Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

A copy of Information Report #2024-INFO-51 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

D) #2024-P-14 – Overview of Carbon Offset Opportunities for the Agriculture Sector in Durham Region

A copy of Commissioner's Report #2024-P-14 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was provided as Attachment #5 to the agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) Concerns regarding the Width of Culverts During Road Upgrades

H. Schillings raised concerns regarding road upgrades in and around culverts and the need for making wider farm driveways. He stated that farm equipment/trucks are not able to make the right turns without crossing the centre line, which is very dangerous with a speed limit of 80 km/h on roads.

H. Schillings expressed his frustration that during the planning phases, regional staff do not meet with DAAC members to discuss necessary widths/recommendations required for farm equipment to enter farm driveways.

M. Scott advised that Works staff are tentatively booked to attend the October DAAC meeting and will follow up to confirm their attendance.

B) Agricultural Gala Nominations

N. Swain advised that the Celebrate Agriculture Gala taking place at the end of October is looking for nominations for the following awards: Farm Family award, Spirit of Agriculture award, and the Leadership award. N. Swain requested that the Committee forward any recommendations to her and she can also help get a nomination package together for them.

C) Migrant Workers Housing – Withholding Permits to Complete Work on Trailers

J. McKay raised a concern from farms in the Municipality of Clarington regarding migrant worker housing and the concern with respect to acquiring permits to allow trailers to be placed on the farms for the migrant workers.

J. McKay advised that recently the fire department completed a blitz of some Clarington farms and provided a number of recommendations to the owners that includes a 30 minute fire wall barrier surrounding all of the bedrooms in the migrant workers housing. He stated that the work the fire department is recommending requires building permits, but the Municipality of Clarington won't issue permits because trailers being placed on farm property goes against the zoning by-laws.

J. McKay further advised that a representative from Witzkes Greenhouses will be delegating to Clarington Council on behalf of Witzkes Greenhouses, Watson Farms and Algoma Orchards with respect to this issue.

D) Durham's Regional Official Plan

M. Scott advised that Durham's Regional Official Plan has been approved by the province which includes updated agricultural policies.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by M. Somerville,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk