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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2023-P-3
Date: January 10, 2023

Subject:

2022 Annual Reports of the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and Durham Environmental Advisory Committees, Files: C00, C07-02 and A01-37

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Terms of Reference (ToR) for each of the Planning and Economic Development Department's advisory committees requires the submission of an annual report summarizing their activities of the previous year.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarize the activities of the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee (DATC), the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) and the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) over 2022.
- 1.3 Traditionally, these Annual Reports have been accompanied by a work plan for the following year, and any proposed changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference. The work plans and the Terms of Reference will be presented to Committee for approval following the membership appointments for this Council term, expected by spring.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 2.1 In January 2022, Council endorsed DAAC's 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Workplan (Report [#2022-P-2](#)).
- 2.2 In January 2022, Council endorsed DEAC's 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Workplan (Report [#2022-P-3](#)).
- 2.3 In February 2022, Council endorsed DATC's 2021 Annual Report and 2022 Workplan ([Report #2022-P-4](#)).
- 2.4 In April 2022, Council endorsed the selection of Azzam Abu-Rayash as an At-Large member on DEAC (Report [#2022-P-8](#)).
- 2.5 In May 2022, Council endorsed the selection of Muaz Nasir as the Ajax member representative on DEAC (Report [#2022-P-12](#)).
- 2.6 In Spring 2022, DEAC completed a Spring Pollinator Seed Distribution Project (Report [#2022-INFO-45](#)).
- 2.7 In October 2022, Council received information on the 2022 DAAC Farm Tour (Report [#2022-INFO-83](#)).
- 2.8 In December 2022, Council endorsed a revision to the DEAC ToR that subsumed the role of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change (DRRCC) within the DEAC mandate, resulting in the renaming of the committee to the Durham Environmental and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) (Report [#2022-COW-28](#)).

3. 2022 Annual Reports

- 3.1 Attachment #1 provides an Annual Report for the DATC.
- 3.2 Attachment #2 provides an Annual Report for the DAAC.
- 3.3 Attachment #3 provides an Annual Report for DEAC.

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability's objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing

climate change.

- b. Under Goal 3; Economic Prosperity, Objective 3.5, Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Advisory Committees had many notable accomplishments in 2022, including supporting Regional active transportation initiatives by DATC, hosting the 20th Annual Farm Tour by DAAC, and the Pollinator Seed Project by DEAC.

5.2 The following staff liaisons from the Planning Division worked with the Committees over the course of 2022:

- Anthony Caruso for DATC;
- Michael Scott for DAAC; and
- Aneesah Luqman for DEAC.

5.3 Members should be commended for the time and commitment they have invested in the activities of their respective Committees.

5.4 The Planning Division will work closely with the Manager of Sustainability in the CAO's Office to support the transition of DEAC to the Durham Environmental and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) over the course of 2023.

5.5 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the:

- DATC, DAAC and DEAC/DECAC;
- Area Municipalities;
- Durham Federation of Agriculture;
- Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.

6. Attachments

Attachment #1: Durham Active Transportation Committee 2022 Annual Report

Attachment #2: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report

Attachment #3: Durham Environmental Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1: Durham Active Transportation Committee 2022 Annual Report

Membership

The DATC is comprised of eight citizen volunteers, one from each area municipality, one Council Representative and one Council Alternate, who bring different perspectives and active transportation-related experiences. Membership is as follows:

- Ron Lalonde (Whitby) (Chair);
- Phil Smith (Uxbridge) (Vice-Chair);
- Keith Haines (Ajax);
- Jean Martin (Brock);
- Connie Kobelka, (Clarington);
- Jim Bate (Oshawa);
- Aisha Heywood (Pickering);
- Marc Gibbons (Scugog);
- Councillor Rick Kerr (Planning and Economic Development Committee);
and
- Councillor Sterling Lee (Planning and Economic Development Committee -
Alternate).

Major Activities

The role of the DATC is to advise the Region of Durham on matters related to active transportation across Durham. The Committee also provides input on Regional initiatives, including its Active Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program and the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP).

The DATC fulfilled its role and major activities in 2022 by:

- a. Receiving presentations and engaging in discussions on:
 - ASST planning in Durham Region;
 - Durham Region's Smart Commute Program; and
 - Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 guidelines.
- b. Providing advice and investigating various Regional issues, including:
 - Advocating for improved cycling safety on Regional cycling routes and infrastructure;
 - Commenting on future trail work and how to improve the overall trail system in Durham; and
 - Engaging on area municipal active transportation plans and projects, including those from the City of Oshawa.

Attachment #2: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report

Membership

DAAC is composed of sixteen members, including one member of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

At the inaugural meeting of 2022, Zac Cohoon was elected Chair, Bryan Smith was elected 1st Vice-Chair and Tom Watpool was elected 2nd Vice-Chair.

- a. Membership at the conclusion of the 2018-2022 Council term was:
 - Zac Cohoon (Chair) (Durham Region Federation of Agriculture);
 - Bryan Smith (Uxbridge); (1st Vice-Chair)
 - Tom Watpool (2nd Vice Chair) (Brock);
 - Fuzz (Gord) Taylor (Pickering);
 - Frazer Puterbough (Member at Large – Farmer);
 - Buck Winter (Ajax);
 - Tom Barrie (Clarington);
 - Kevin Kemp (Scugog);
 - Hubert Schillings (Whitby);
 - Neil Guthrie (Member At Large – Farmer);
 - Keith Kennedy (Member At Large – Farmer);
 - Gerri Lynn O'Connor (Member At Large – Non-farmer);
 - Brad Howsam (Member At Large – Non-farmer);
 - Dave Risebrough (Member At Large – Non-farmer);
 - Councillor Gord Hight (Planning and Economic Development Committee);
 - and
 - Councillor Joe Neal (Planning and Economic Development Committee - Alternate).

Major Activities

The role of DAAC is to provide advice to the Region on agricultural and rural related planning matters. The Committee also has a role in implementing programs which enhance public awareness and knowledge of agriculture and rural related issues in the Region. During 2022, DAAC fulfilled this role by:

- a. Expanding its knowledge of agricultural related issues by receiving presentations and engaging in discussions on the following:

- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas;
 - Agriculture Industry Roundtable and Tour with Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs;
 - TRCA's Updated Regional Natural Heritage System and Water Resource System Mapping;
 - Durham Local Food Hub;
 - Envision Durham:
 - Alternative Land Need Scenarios Assessment;
 - Draft Natural Heritage System;
 - Implementation of the Regional Agricultural System
 - Agri-Food Business Development Charges;
 - 2022 Durham Business Count;
 - Town of Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan;
 - Growing Agri-Food Durham – A Five-Year Plan to Grow the Agri-Food Industry;
 - Agricultural Economic Development and Planning Workshop;
 - Identification of Areas Meeting Criteria for Significant Wildlife Habitat in TRCA's jurisdiction;
 - Updates to Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects;
 - Agricultural Opportunities at the Port of Oshawa;
 - Durham's Freight and Goods Movement Strategy;
 - Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022; and
 - Agri-Food Career Video Series.
- b. Providing advice on various Regional issues, including:
- Official Plan Amendment applications to permit surplus farm dwelling severances (OPA 2022-002 & OPA 2022-004);
 - Official Plan Amendment applications related to aggregate license applications in the Rural Area (OPA 2022-003);
 - Rural economic development needs and opportunities, including farm succession planning, migrant worker information, and promotion of rural economic initiatives;
 - Potential for a Local Food Logistics Hub and Innovation Centre
 - Durham Community Energy Plan Task Force
 - Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan – Priority Areas;
 - Envision Durham:

- Alternative Land Need Scenarios Assessment
 - Draft Natural Heritage System
 - Draft Agricultural System
- c. Organizing and/or participating in the following educational/outreach initiatives:
- Hosting the 2022 DAAC Farm Tour held on September 15 (see Commissioner's Report [#2022-INFO-83](#)). The in-person Farm Tour was attended by over 100 participants and provided a unique opportunity to experience a local family run dairy farm operation.

Attachment #3: Durham Environmental Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report**Membership**

DEAC is composed of seventeen members, including one member of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

At the inaugural meeting in 2022, Geoff Carpentier was re-elected as Chair, Jay Cuthbertson was elected first Vice-Chair, and Gwen Layton was elected second Vice-Chair.

Membership at the conclusion of the 2018-2022 Council term was:

- Geoff Carpentier (Scugog) (Chair);
- Jay Cuthbertson (Clarington) (1st Vice-Chair);
- Gwen Layton (Oshawa) (2nd Vice-Chair);
- Muaz Nasir (Ajax);
- Richard Dickinson (Brock);
- Ozair Chaudhry (Pickering);
- Bruce Foxtan (Uxbridge);
- Susan Clearwater (Whitby);
- Keiko Lui (Member at Large) (1st Vice-Chair);
- Kimberly Murray (Member at Large);
- Brian Shipp (Member at Large);
- Dimitri Stathopoulos (Member at Large);
- Azzam Abu-Rayash (Member at Large);
- Derek Nguyen (Youth Member);
- Shlok Panchal (Youth Member);
- Councillor Steve Yamada (Planning and Economic Development Committee); and
- Councillor Sterling Lee (Planning and Economic Development Committee – Alternate).

Anish Panday (Post-secondary Member) resigned from his position in 2022 upon graduating. Given the short time period before the end of the Council term, this role will remain vacant until the new membership appointment process for the next term.

Major Activities

The role of DEAC is to provide advice to the Region on environmental matters. The Committee also has a role in implementing and participating in community outreach programs that support environmental awareness and appreciation in the Region.

During 2022, DEAC fulfilled its role by:

- a. Expanding its knowledge of environmental related issues by receiving presentations and engaging in discussion on the following:
 - The Durham Meadoway;
 - Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan;
 - TRCA's updated regional Natural Heritage System and Water Resource System Mapping
 - The Regional Natural Heritage System;
 - Town of Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan;
 - Durham Greener Homes Program;
 - Friends of Second Marsh; and
 - Durham Wastewater – Treatment, Sludge, and Biosolids
- b. Providing advice on various Regional issues, including:
 - Carruthers Creek Headwaters in the Greenbelt and the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan;
 - The Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) process by providing input and comments on Envision Durham, including the Regional Natural Heritage System and Growth Management Study;
 - Various Official Plan Amendments;
 - Whitby Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review;
 - Draft Regional Agricultural System; and
 - The Durham Climate Commission.
- c. Community outreach and stewardship, including:
 - Preparing for, and implementing a spring bee pollinator seed distribution project at Regional Compost Day events across all 8 area municipalities, where members distributed pollinator seeds and connected with over 1,200 residents (Report #[2022-INFO-45](#)); and
 - Preparing for the 2023 Durham Environmental Achievement Awards.

- d. Participating in various stakeholder advisory committees and groups including the Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group, the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plan Advisory Committee, Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors, and attending community events (including seminars, workshops, and symposiums).