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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 19, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 19, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:12 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Basztyk, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair

Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Office of the CAO
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff members participated electronically**

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, Chair, K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by W. Basztyk, Seconded by K. Lui,
That the agenda for the September 19, 2024 Durham Environment and
Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Delegations

A) Ontario Energy Board Decision on Sandford Gas Expansion Project, Elizabeth Carswell, Durham Resident

E. Carswell, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the Ontario Energy Board Decision on Sandford Gas Expansion Project and advised she has observed climate change over the past 40 years in Sandford, which is in the Northwest corner of Uxbridge.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Project Budget of over 7 million
- Project Cost and Economics
- Excerpt of Enbridge Advertisement
- Annual Energy Costs & Savings Versus Natural Gas, Including SES
- Footnote
- Email of draft response to Elizabeth Carswell
- Status Today
- Letter from Township of Uxbridge to Ontario Energy Board
- Thank-you for your support to Northern Municipalities

E. Carswell advised of making presentations to the Township of Uxbridge Council, going door-to-door in Sandford, having coverage in the local paper and making a presentation to the Uxbridge Environment and Sustainability Committee advocating for a motion to request that the Ontario government find a more flexible way to use the \$4 million and withdraw support for the project as it is one of the requirements to receive funding. E. Carswell stated that Uxbridge sent a letter on September 10, 2024 advising they do not agree with her request to stop construction until the review is completed.

E. Carswell thanked the Committee for allowing her presentation and requested more support for the Northern municipalities.

E. Carswell responded to questions from Committee members.

6. Presentations

- A) Sustainable Built Form, Dr. Shoshanna Saxe, PhD, P. Eng., Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Infrastructure, University of Toronto

Dr. Shoshanna Saxe, PhD, P. Eng., Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Infrastructure, University of Toronto, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Building More Housing and Infrastructure with Less GHG Emissions.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Two Large Crises
- Safe Operating Space for Humanity
- Safe Operating Space for Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industry
- How much GHG do we emit constructing buildings and infrastructure?
- Emissions from Construction in Canada by Sector (Consumption)
- Commodity Type – Construction Sector – Consuming Province/Territory
- Tensions Between Building More and Polluting Less
- How much is enough?
- Pathways to fit between housing need and climate need?
 1. What drives the embodied GHG of housing and related infrastructure in Canada?
 - Distribution of emissions across every neighbourhood in Canada if they were built new
 - Total neighbourhood emissions (houses, roads, water)
 - Examples in Toronto, Edmonton, Montreal
 - Southern Ontario typical suburb
 - Examples throughout Canada
 2. What can we do to reduce embodied emissions in the future?
 - Yearly emissions in 2030
 - Strategies for reducing embodied emissions
 - Reducing emissions – to 2030
 - Embodied emissions from new Canada housing and infrastructure construction in 2030 if we build enough housing to restore affordability
 - Continuing to build housing the way we do now is incompatible with a sustainable future
 - So what?
 - Co-benefits
 3. How can we build enough housing without overshooting our climate commitments?

Dr. Saxe responded to questions from the Committee regarding collaborating with building associations on the research project; lowering GHG emissions using pre-

fabricated materials; how low density homes compare to high-rise building in terms of sustainability; whether there is a demand for high density buildings; how to deal with stormwater management in high density areas; how the district energy system plays a factor in the research; ways to design roads to help meet green development standards; how materials can add value when building new homes; how provinces across Canada are responding when considering changes to building codes and master plans; communities around Durham Region that follow the green development standards outlined in the research project; and other community groups the presentation has been provided to.

7. **Items for Discussion**

A) Regional Official Plan (Envision Durham) Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the Regional Official Plan (Envision Durham) has been approved by the Province. The following links were provided within the Agenda:

- Regional Official Plan Approval
2024-INFO-57 – Council Information Report on Provincial Decision
Notice of MMAH’s Decision dated September 3, 2024 regarding the Region of Durham 2023 Official Plan
- Regional Response to MMAH’s Proposed Modifications to the Durham Regional Official Plan (second submission) on June 27th
- MMAH’s Draft Decision on the Council-adopted Regional official plan on May 6th and Preliminary Response to MMAH’s Proposed Modifications to the Durham Regional Official Plan (first submission) on May 15th

B) Home EnergySaver Program (I. McVey)

A link to the Home EnergySaver Program webpage was provided to Committee members.

I. McVey advised there is a new program offering incentives for electrically heated homes to purchase an air source heat pump. He stated it is only available in certain postal codes, none of which are in Durham Region, and there is a campaign to advocate the province to make it available to anyone with an electrically heated home.

I. McVey responded to a question from the Committee regarding if the Home EnergySaver Program will offer incentives for homes that currently have heat pumps attached to them that need to be replaced.

C) Fall Pollinator Plots on Regional Property Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman updated the committee on progress of pollinator plantings resulting from a grant that Durham Region was awarded earlier in 2024. Throughout the summer, staff identified plots of land near the Scugog Works Depot, that will be prepared, solarized, and seeded in the fall, and left to “overwinter” and bloom in the Spring. A. Luqman stated that the plots will be maintained by staff at the Scugog Works Depot.

D) Fall Durham Climate Forum Update (DCF Subcommittee)

A. Luqman provided an update on behalf of the Durham Climate Forum subcommittee and advised that they have developed a description, judging criteria, categories and contest rules for the Art from Garbage contest. A. Luqman added that the online form is available and will be provided to school boards and posted on the website next week.

K. Murray advised that the Durham Climate Forum is taking place on October 19, 2024.

Discussion ensued with regards to Committee members providing help to judge the contest; a social media post that can be shared; a DECAC booth at the event; and the annual update on carbon emissions and climate action in Durham Region.

8. For Information

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-51: New Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-51 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

B) Information Report #2024-INFO-49: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-49 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

C) Information Report #2024-INFO-42: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Pollinator Giveaway Project

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-42 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

D) Commissioner Report #2022-COW-30: Region of Durham’s 2024 to 2029 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan

A copy of Report #2024-COW-30 of the Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Works and Chief Administrative Officer was received.

E) Commissioner Report #2024-COW-23: Durham Region's 2025 Strategic Plan
Community Engagement Summary

A copy of Report #2024-COW-23 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

F) Whitby Staff Report #CAO-16-24: Town of Whitby 2023 Annual Sustainability and
Climate Change Report

A copy of Town of Whitby Staff Report #CAO-16-24 was received.

G) New Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool (v-HEAT) launches in Durham Region
– links to news release and v-HEAT webpage

Links to the New virtual home energy assessment tool (v-HEAT) launches in Durham Region news release and v-HEAT webpage was received.

H) "Grow and Flourish": Durham Alternative Schooling Greening Downtown Oshawa

A link to the "Grow and Flourish"; Durham Alternative Schooling Greening Downtown Oshawa article was received.

I) Town of Ajax and University of Toronto Address Invasive Phragmites in Ajax

A link to the Town of Ajax and University of Toronto address invasive phragmites in Ajax article was received.

J) Ontario Supporting Wetland Restoration in Ajax

A link to the Ontario supporting wetland restoration in Ajax article was received.

K) Minutes of the June 11, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC)
Meeting

A copy of the June 11, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That Information Items 8. A) to 7. K) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Farm Tour

W. Baszyk advised that the DAAC Farm Tour is taking place on September 26, 2024. A. Luqman advised 5 or 6 Committee members will be attending this year's farm tour.

B) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LRSCA) Watershed Hero Award Reception

A. Luqman advised that the award ceremony is taking place on October 8, 2024 and asked Committee members to advise if they wish to attend.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk