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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 8, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 in the Council Chambers, 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
D. Risebrough*, Member at Large, Vice-Chair, left the meeting at 8:35 PM
H. Schillings, Member at Large
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Somerville, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock

Also

Present: J. Neal*, Regional Councillor Alternate
***denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Hulshof, Uxbridge
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh
D. Stevenson, Oshawa
N. Swain, Scugog
G. Taylor, Pickering
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
A. Janes, Project Manager, Transportation Design, Works Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Talling, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

H. Schillings requested that the minutes of the September 10, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be amended under Other Business Item 7. A) to remove the words “DAAC members” and replace it with “farmers”.

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by T. Barrie,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, as amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Larissa Fenn, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) Ports – Port of Oshawa Grain Export Terminal Update

Larissa Fenn, HOPA Ports, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Port of Oshawa Grain Export Terminal Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- HOPA is one of 17 Port Authorities in Canada
- Managing Working Waterfronts on the Canadian Great Lakes
- Regional Economic Impact
- Opportunities Growing in Agri-Food
- Ontario Grain Expo
- Port of Oshawa Export Development
- Surfacing and Road Works
- \$3.5M Dredging Investment
- Grain Terminal – FWS
- What’s New?
- Now Accepting Export Loads
- Reducing Congestion & Drive Time
- Outlook
- We Need Your Feedback!

L. Fenn responded to questions with regards to the different coloured flags noted on slide 2 of the presentation; the current seaway-depth at the Oshawa terminal; how the seaway-depth will be maintained on an ongoing basis; where the saltation comes from into the Oshawa terminal; whether an operator has been selected; the number of vessels that go through Oshawa versus Hamilton; what Oshawa’s capacity would be for vessels per year; whether moving soybeans from Oshawa to Hamilton, and returning to Oshawa with soy meal is possible; and best time of year to close the entrance to the Oshawa terminal for road work.

Discussion ensued with regards to incorporating operational recommendations into the new facility; and different commodities that might be able to use the Port of Oshawa.

B) Ron Trewin and Andrew Janes, Region of Durham Works Department – Regional Roads Capital Program

Ron Trewin, Retired Senior Project Manager, and Andrew Janes, Project Manager, Region of Durham Works Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Regional Roads Capital Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Presentation
- Budget Overview – Roads & Infrastructure
- 2023 Accomplishments
 - Service Improvements
 - Customer Service
- 2024 Road Projects
 - Brock Road (Reg. Rd. 1) from Reg. Rd. 5 to 0.2km north of Uxbridge/Pickering Townline Road, Pickering
 - Simcoe Street (Reg. Rd. 2) from 0.6km south of River Street to Saintfield Road, Scugog
 - Myrtle Road (Reg. Rd. 5) from Dagmar Road to west limit of Ashburn, Whitby
 - Shirley Road (Reg. Rd. 19) from Simcoe Street to 0.5km east of Graham Road, Scugog
 - Regional Highway 2 from Ovens Road to East Townline Road, Clarington
 - Regional Highway 47 from 0.9km east of Reg. Rd. 30 to west of Reg. Rd. 21, Uxbridge
 - Grandview Street North (Reg. Rd. 3) from Hwy 407 to Columbus Road E. and Columbus Road E. from Grandview Street N. to Townline Road N., Oshawa
 - Farewell Street (Reg. Rd. 56) from Harbour Road to Bloor Street, Oshawa
 - Regional Road 3 from Townline Road to Enfield Road, Oshawa/Clarington
 - Taunton Road (Reg. Rd. 40) from east of Townline Road to west of Enfield Road, Clarington
 - Zephyr Road (Reg. Rd. 13) from Concession 3 (Reg. Rd. 39) to Concession 4, Uxbridge
- Proposed 2024 Structures Replacement / Rehabilitation Projects
- 2024 Vision Zero Program
- Proposed 2024 Traffic Programs
- Proposed 2024 Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) Bus Rapid Transit Projects
- Planned 2024 Road Tenders Funded from Previous Year Budget

- Transportation and the Agricultural Community
- Road Standards
- Continuing to Construct Roundabouts to Improve Road Safety
- Concerns About Guiderails Squeezing the Road
- Excess Soils Filling Sites Adjacent to the Road
- Excess Soils to Fill a Low Area to Improve Farming
- Slope Flattening for Road Safety Improvements
- Road Closures for Bridge Replacement
- More Road Standard Improvements
- Major Future Projects

R. Trewin and A. Janes responded to question with regards to when Shirley Road is being paved; why Saintfield Road is not able to have widened paved shoulders; whether drainage work will be considered for Highway 2; how paving standards are determined for different roads that are used by heavy gravel trucks; half load restrictions for Farewell Street; consultation with lower tier municipalities regarding traffic light installation; how people get to bus stops in the middle of the road for bus rapid transit locations; standards for shoulder paving when widening a road; why there is a roundabout being installed at Courtice Road and Taunton Road; when the bridge on Saintfield Road is being closed; and how to incorporate the main entrance into a farm to be more accessible for large farm equipment.

Discussion ensued with regards to drainage from roads into ditches and farm fields; increase in water loads in recent years; and criteria for installing bike lanes on Regional roads.

It was the consensus of the Committee that the agenda be altered to consider Item 5. F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap, next.

5. Discussion Items

F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap

D. Risebrough thanked Committee members and staff for their support and help with the tour.

D. Risebrough advised that given the last-minute changes to the venue and agenda, there was a great turnout and positive feedback was received.

M. Scott stated that 131 people attended the event. He further advised that the feedback received was positive and he will send the survey results to Committee members.

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. Talling provided the following update:

- The North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project draft recommendations prepared by the consultant

have been received and feedback from the project team of municipal staff has been provided. This week there will be a meeting to walk through test cases to test out the proposed new process and policy.

- There will be an update provided to Committee members at the November meeting and staff are aiming towards providing a presentation to the 3 northern township Councils next year.

L. Talling suggested the formation of a subcommittee to work on the toolkit for the North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project and bring forward any recommendations to this Committee. The Committee agreed that M. Sommerville, H. Schillings and Z. Cohoon will comprise the subcommittee.

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Apple Value Chain campaign is underway to raise public awareness and education to highlight the Durham Region “apple from farm to plate” with five businesses being highlighted on the apple’s path.
- The Gather at the Farm campaign is a tourism focused campaign for Durham Farm Fresh members and other farms offering special events this fall.
- This week is Ontario Agriculture Week and is focusing on highlighting all the good work that farms do.
- A number of agriculture career initiatives have taken place in the last few weeks. There was a career fair last week, and staff spoke at the International Plowing Match and are looking into providing a bus tour for students to learn about equipment technician and farm equipment mechanic careers.

Discussion ensued with regards to connecting with dealers for farm equipment; how transportation will work for students to get to where the farm equipment is located; and bringing farm equipment into schools for learning opportunities.

B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie advised there was no Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee update at this time as there was no meeting in September.

C) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay was not in attendance to provide the Durham Farm Fresh Update.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised that at the last meeting of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance there was discussion around the new Provincial Planning Statement and a roundtable discussion regarding the changes from Bill 23.

A. De Vos advised Halton Region no longer has an agricultural advisory committee and will no longer have their agriculture economic development and planning staff in the new year.

Discussion ensued with regards to potential changes in Durham Region with the new Provincial Planning Statement in place; and the importance of work being done by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee now and in the future.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers advised that at the last meeting of the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture there was discussion on accidents happening on farms and the response time of first responders with the difficulty having to go off road. There was a motion put forward to draft a letter regarding offroad vehicles for farmers or accidents on trails.

M. Shiers further advised that the Durham Federation of Agriculture and Ontario Federation of Agriculture annual general meeting is being held on October 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Greenbank United Church.

F) 2024 Farm Tour Recap

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. [See page 4 of these minutes]

6. Information Items

A) Durham Region Apple Adventure

Durham Region Apple Adventure was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

B) Gather at the Farm Poster

Gather at the Farm Poster was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) Clarington – LGS-032-24 – Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens

Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington regarding LGS-032-24 – Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens dated September 25, 2024 was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

In response to a question from the Committee, M. Scott advised Clarington was provided with the motion that DAAC does not support permitting chickens to be kept in urban and rural settlement areas.

D) City of Pickering – Resolution on Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water

Correspondence from the City of Pickering regarding Resolution on Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water was provided as Attachment #5 to the agenda and received.

Councillor Neal advised that he pulled the correspondence and it was placed on the October 3, 2024 Health and Social Services Committee agenda. Direction was given at that meeting that the correspondence be forwarded to this Committee. Councillor Neal requested that the correspondence be received for information and endorsed by Committee members.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the Correspondence from the City of Pickering regarding a resolution passed at their Council meeting held on June 24, 2024, endorsing the resolution by the Town of Amaranth regarding Water Testing Services for Private Drinking Water, be received for information, and endorsed by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

A) Endorsements

R. Death raised a question with regards to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee endorsing a company for a new process facility. Z. Cohoon advised that endorsements are not done by the Committee. M. Scott proposed requesting endorsement from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture or Grain Farmers of Ontario.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by M. Shiers,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk