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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
B. Baszyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
M. Nasir, Ajax attended the meeting at 7:03 PM
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student

Also

Present: Councillor Wotten
***all visiting Councillors participated electronically**

Staff

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the agenda for the October 17, 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 O. Chaudhry, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. **Presentations**

A) Impacts of Road Salt on the Environment and Infrastructure, Anne-Jan Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC)

Anne-Jan Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the impacts of road salt on the environment and infrastructure.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- The Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee & Road Salt Working Group
- Road Salt Impacts
- Road Salt Legislation
- Taking Action
- Are You Using Too Much Winter Road Salt?
- Road Salt: Less is More
- Taking Action

A-J Groen asked that DECAC consider starting a road salt working group that would mirror the mandate of OEAC's salt working group that aims to educate people about the long-term risks to infrastructure and the environment, and ensure that Durham Region is following best practices when it comes to road salt application and storage.

A-J Groen responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether they have connected with the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition; why municipalities are not using sand instead of salt on their roads and what can be done to promote the use of sand; whether they would present at the Scugog Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC); and what additives are in road salt.

A. Lugman advised that she would follow-up with A-J Groen to seek permission with respect to sharing their slideshow with the Committee.

6. Items for Discussion

A) Update on DECAC Resolution from its June 20th meeting, re: Bill 199 (Ontario Building Code Amendments)

A. Luqman advised that DECAC's resolution was approved by the Planning & Economic Development Committee and subsequently endorsed by Regional Council on September 25, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding what else could be done by DECAC to further support its resolution. I. McVey advised that he would follow-up with Regional Chair Henry along with Councillor Shahid to see if there is anything further that can be done.

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

A. Luqman advised that the Scugog Works Depot was selected as the pilot site for the fall pollinator project and she presented a few progress photos to the Committee. She further advised that seeding will occur in a couple weeks, and that a second plot will be placed on the right-of-way located on the other side of the depot (Lakeridge Road).

C) Fall Durham Climate Forum (DCF) Update (DCF Subcommittee)

A. Luqman advised that the Fall Durham Climate Forum will take place Saturday, October 19, 2024, from 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM at Durham Regional Headquarters. She advised that DECAC will be taking part in three aspects of the forum: the "Art from Garbage" contest for students where winners will be selected by people's choice; a passport activity where an individual will need to attend at least 8 of the 22 booths in order to receive a swag bag from DECAC; and finally, a DECAC booth.

A. Luqman advised that K. Lui and M. Nasir will be managing DECAC's booth but encouraged other members to attend as well.

I. McVey advised that P. Cohen will be participating on the discussion panel in the morning to represent a youth perspective.

D) Upcoming Engagement Opportunity – Durham Greener Homes Weather Ready Program Enhancements (S. Logan)

In the absence of S. Logan, I. McVey advised that staff are looking to extend the Durham Greener Weather Ready Program and that they will be organizing some community engagement that will include an online survey early next week. He advised that he will share the survey link with A. Luqman once it's live. He also advised that information sessions will take place later in November and that he will be looking to engage DECAC in those meetings.

E) Durham Greener Homes Heat Pump Seminar Series (I. McVey)

I. McVey advised that the Durham Sustainability Office will be hosting a hybrid workshop series that will provide information on Durham Greener Homes Heat Pumps that will begin on October 29, 2024, in the Township of Scugog.

F) DAAC Farm Tour Update (Members in Attendance)

B. Basztyk, O. Chaudhry, K. Lui and G. Carpentier attended the DAAC Farm Tour on September 26, 2024.

B. Basztyk commended DAAC for the unexpected last minute change of venue where the farm tour was set to take place and converting the farm tour into an educational event. He encouraged all DECAC members to attend next year's tour.

G) Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Annual Conservation Awards (Members in Attendance)

A. Luqman advised that G. Carpentier was selected as the 2024 recipient of the George R. Richardson Award of Honour as part of this year's LSRCA Conservation Awards that took place on October 8, 2024. She shared a video with the Committee that highlighted G. Carpentier's accomplishments. She stated that K. Lui, B. Widner, and O. Chaudhry were in attendance to help celebrate G. Carpentier's achievement.

7. For Information

A) Information Report #2024-INFO-58: Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessments; Extreme Heat Report

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-58 of the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health along with a link to the report: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region: Assessing the Impacts of Extreme Heat; and a link to the webpage, was received.

B) Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) Fall Film Night

A copy of the news alert regarding the Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) Fall Film Night was received.

J. Cuthbertson advised that the OEAC Fall Film night will take place on October 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM at the Regent Theatre.

C) Draft Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan: Links to Memo and the Draft Plan

A copy of the memo regarding Durham Region's 2025 Draft Strategic Plan and the draft Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan were received.

D) Minutes of the September 24th, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the September 24, 2024, Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting was received.

E) Minutes of the September 10th, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the September 10, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting was received.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the subject of backyard chickens should remain under the purview of public health and epidemiologists.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. E) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) DECAC's Annual Workplan

M. Nasir raised with the Committee that the old version of DECAC's Annual Workplan is still on the regional website. A. Luqman advised that the website can be updated but noted that the 2025 annual workplan will be coming to next month's meeting for review and approval.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk