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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 12, 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, attended the meeting at 7:38 PM
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
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
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
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, Acting 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

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Agriculture Equipment Technician and Mechanic Tour will be taking place in March 2025.
- Durham Agriculture Leadership Program promotion and registration will begin next month. The program is being organized in partnership with Durham Farm Connections and the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture. It consists of four modules, held between January and April 2025, highlighting different topics such as challenges and opportunities from a domestic and global perspective; effective communication; resilient business planning; and how to be a voice for agriculture.
- Brent Herrington from Herrington's Quality Butchers located in Port Perry will be running tours through their shop in partnership with the Port Perry High School culinary program, to try and promote interest in a career as a butcher. They are trying to connect with the Durham College culinary program on this as well.

G.L. O'Connor suggested offering the Herrington tour to the Brock and Uxbridge high schools.

B) Enabling Agriculture Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses Project Sub-Committee Update

L. Talling provided the following update:

- The DAAC subcommittee for the North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project met on November 4, 2024 to review preliminary recommendations and provide feedback to

WSP. An update on the project is tentative for the December meeting. Once the draft recommendations are further developed based on project stakeholder review and feedback, the second phase of community consultation will be launched, and a public open house will be hosted.

C) Bill 186, Growing Agritourism Act, 2024

M. Scott and M. Sommerville advised that Bill 186 implements changes to the liability for incidents related to on farm diversified uses and could bring changes to farm operations.

D) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie provided the following update:

- Witzke's Greenhouses was in attendance at the last meeting to discuss the inability to get building permits to upgrade migrant worker buildings and is in the process of setting up a meeting for all parties involved in the process.
- There was an information presentation on the Langmaid battery storage site in Clarington.

E) Durham Farm Fresh Update

This item was dealt with later in the meeting. See page 3 of these minutes.

F) 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.

G) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers advised that the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 15, 2024. He stated there was poor turnout at the AGM and there were minor changes to the board members. There was discussion on the workplan for the upcoming year.

Discussion ensued with regards to the timing of the AGM and difficulties getting new board members on DRFA.

5. Discussion Items

E) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay advised that 42 businesses have joined Durham Farm Fresh in the last year and nine have signed up for radio ads that are purchased in one-week slots. The Durham Farm Fresh brochures have been printed and distributed. Work is

being done to the website to make the mapping more user friendly and interactive. The annual general meeting is coming up soon.

H) 2025 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Workplan

M. Scott advised that the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Workplan will be presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee at the January meeting and Z. Cohoon, Chair, will be providing a presentation to the Committee. He stated that the planning authority changes following the proclamation of Durham Region's upper tier planning responsibilities pursuant to Bill 23 will take place starting on January 1, 2025. The DAAC Workplan has been updated to remove some of the planning related functions of the committee.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Workplan including leaving the Agriculture 101 presentations to the local municipalities on the workplan; changing the Agriculture 101 presentation to an annual training for the local municipal Councils; and when the Energy from Waste (EFW) implementation and monitoring was last looked at and the possibility of having an update on the DYEC provided at a future meeting.

M. Scott provided an update with regards to the implications of Bill 23 on the Region of Durham, specifically in relation to agriculture. He stated there will likely be changes to the procedures for Official Plan amendments and secondary plans, settlement boundary expansions, development applications, and planning and subdivision applications.

Discussed ensued with regards to the challenges being faced by the lower tier municipalities with the changes to the Planning responsibilities; how the new Regional Official Plan will reflect on the lower tier Official Plans; ensuring the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee remains in place and continues to have a strong voice given the recent changes; encouraging lower tier municipalities to implement agriculture advisory committees; ensuring the public understands the importance of the agriculture community; continuing to educate the eight lower tier municipalities in Durham Region on the importance of farming and agriculture in the region; providing training to lower tier planners on agriculture related items; and the need to identify education and training to lower tier municipalities in the workplan.

6. Information Items

A) #2024-INFO-62 – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Farm Tour

A copy of Information Report #2024-INFO-62 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

B) Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Cultivating Local Workshop Series

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Cultivating Local Workshop series was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

C) Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Local Snapshots – Durham

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) Agriculture at a Glance – Local Snapshots – Durham was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

D) Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) – Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA) – Agricultural Workforce Equity and Diversity Initiative was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

E) Bill 186, Growing Agritourism Act, 2024

Bill 186, Growing Agritourism Act, 2024 was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

F) Apple Value Chain Campaign

Apple Value Chain Campaign was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

G) Municipality of Clarington Exotic Pet By-law – Backyard Chickens

By-law 2024-044 of the Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington to amend the Exotic Animal By-law 2012-045 that regulates prohibited animals in the Municipality of Clarington was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by N. Swain,
That Information Items 6. A) to 6. G) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

A) Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum

M. Scott and A. De Vos attended the Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum last month and provided a presentation on Agriculture Advisory Committees with discussion on how the Durham Region committees are structured, the type of work done, and how active this committee is in the community.

A. De Vos advised that following the presentation, three municipalities have reached out for more information on the work being done.

B) Award Recognition

N. Swain advised that Zac Cohoon was awarded the Spirit of Agriculture award and Derrick Stevenson was awarded the Excellence in Agriculture Youth Excellence award.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 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 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk