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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 10, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, December 10, 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
G. O'Connor*, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
H. Schillings, Member at Large
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Somerville, Member at Large
D. Stevenson*, Oshawa
N. Swain*, Scugog
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock

*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

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 B. Smith, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Amelia Cassimatis and Susana Gonzalez, Agriculture Wellness Ontario, re: An Introduction to Mental Health in Agriculture

Amelia Cassimatis and Susana Gonzalez were not in attendance at this time. This item was considered later in the meeting. [See pages 3 and 4 of these minutes]

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Durham Agriculture Leadership Program, designed to provide farmers with the opportunity to grow their leadership potential and skills, will begin in January and consists of the following 4 modules that are held once a month in the afternoons: 1) On January 28, 2025: Agricultural Challenges and Opportunities from a Global Perspective; 2) On February 25, 2025: Effective Communication in Business and Beyond; 3) March 5, 2025: Leading a Resilient Agri-Business; and 4) On April 8, 2025: How to be a Voice for Agriculture. The registration cost is \$25 per session or \$75 for all four sessions. A separate evening session for farmers and their families entitled “Finding Fairness in Farm Transition” will also be offered on February 25.

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

L. Talling provided the following update:

- The North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) project consultant is continuing to work on updates to the draft recommendations. A revised recommendations report and revised application toolkit were received by Regional staff this week. Additional new or revised draft deliverables, including a planners toolkit, will be provided next week. The Regional team will provide

feedback by January 9, 2025; the deliverables will then be updated and provided to the three northern Township staff during the week of January 13, 2025. There will then be another round of community consultation, including a meeting with the DAAC subcommittee, in February/March. The final recommendations and toolkits are expected to be complete by March/April and WSP will present to the three northern Councils in the spring.

4. Presentations

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That Presentation Item 4. A) Amelia Cassimatis and Susana Gonzalez, Agriculture Wellness Ontario, re: An Introduction to Mental Health in Agriculture, be allowed 30 minutes for their presentation.

CARRIED

A) Amelia Cassimatis and Susana Gonzalez, Agriculture Wellness Ontario, re: An Introduction to Mental Health in Agriculture

Amelia Cassimatis and Susana Gonzalez, Agriculture Wellness Ontario, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to An Introduction to Mental Health in Agriculture.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Land Acknowledgement
- Disclaimer & Group Agreement
- Agriculture Wellness Ontario
- Agenda
- Mental Health & Wellness
 - What is mental health?
 - What is mental illness?
 - Seven Dimensions of Wellness
 - Farmer Mental Health
- Taking Care of Ourselves
 - Managing Wellness Day by Day
 - Quick & Simple Self Care
 - Box Breathing
 - Resources
- Agriculture Wellness Ontario Programs
 - Farmer Wellness Initiative
 - The Guardian Network
 - In the Know
 - Growth Workshops
 - International Agricultural Worker Wellness Program
 - Upcoming Trainings
- Thank you to our Funders
- Join Our Mailing List

- Follow us on Social Media

A. Cassimatis responded to questions with regards to whether this program merged with Telus Health; whether there are similar programs available to other professional industries; where they place advertisements for the program; and how the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee can help to spread awareness about their program.

Z. Cohoon requested that the presentation and program be shared with the Durham Federation of Agriculture and Farm Connections.

C) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie provided the following update:

- Ron Trewin and Andrew Janes from the Durham Works Department provided a presentation regarding the Regional Road Capital Program.
- There was discussion on migrant worker housing and staff have been working with local area planners to allow the housing to be built.
- Clarington is allowing backyard chickens.
- CP Rail will no longer be responsible for railway crossings that are on private property and the responsibility will fall to landowners for maintenance and repairs.

D) Durham Farm Fresh Update

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

E) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised that there has been no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance meeting since DAAC last met. .

F) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers was not in attendance to provide the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture update.

G) 2025 DAAC Workplan

M. Scott provided a brief overview of the changes implemented in the 2025 Workplan.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Draft 2025 Workplan of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee be
adopted.

CARRIED

M. Scott provided a brief overview of the changes implemented in the Terms of
Reference.

Committee members suggested inserting a new Item 3.1 c) to read “Providing
advice on agriculture and rural economic development initiatives.”

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by M. Sommerville,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Terms of Reference of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, as
amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

- A) Memorandum from Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic
Development, Proclamation of Durham Region’s Upper Tier Planning
Responsibilities Pursuant to Bill 23

Memorandum from Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic
Development regarding Proclamation of Durham Region’s Upper Tier Planning
Responsibilities Pursuant to Bill 23 was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda
and received.

M. Scott advised that staff are working on preparing a Memorandum of
Understanding (MOU) with the local municipalities to clarify responsibilities.

- B) Chair John Henry – Durham This Week Column – Durham’s Reaping the Benefits
of Agriculture Success: Durham Chair Reveals Staggering Number About the
Farming Industry

A link to Durham’s Reaping the Benefits of Agriculture Success: Durham Chair
Reveals Staggering Number About the Farming Industry was provided as
Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) #2024-INFO-75 – Precision Agriculture Field Day

A copy of Information Report #2024-INFO-75 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) 2025 Farm Tour

M. Scott advised that the 2025 Farm Tour will be on the January 14, 2025 agenda to begin discussions.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Hulshof, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk