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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### COMMUNITY GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

A regular meeting of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Pickles  
Councillor Shahid  
Councillor Woo  
Councillor Wotten  
Regional Chair Henry\* attended the meeting at 9:36 AM  
**\* denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Chapman, Chair  
Councillor Collier

#### Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair\*, Chief Administrative Officer  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth & Economic Development  
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Economic Development  
A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning  
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development & Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Director of Community Growth  
A. Harras, Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk  
B. Holmes, General Manager, Transit  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
J. Kelly, Manager, Integrated Growth Management & Policy  
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning  
L. Lovery\*, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)  
A. Luqman, Manager, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Integrated Growth Management & Policy  
J. Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, Economic Development  
T. Shaver, Manager, Small Business Enterprise Centre, Economic Development & Tourism  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Economic Development  
N. Taylor\*, Commissioner of Finance  
L. Trombino, Manager, Development Advisory Services  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Woon, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services  
**\* denotes Staff participating electronically**

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotton,  
(1) That in the absence of the Chair and a Vice-Chair, Councillor Pickles be appointed as the acting Chair for the meeting.

CARRIED

Councillor Pickles chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## **2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

## **3. Election of Community Growth and Economic Development Committee Vice-Chair**

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotton,  
(2) That the election of the Vice-Chair for the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee be deferred to the next Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting to be held on February 4, 2025.

CARRIED

## **4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(3) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

## **5. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

## **6. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

## **7. Delegations**

7.1 Zac Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-1) [Item 8.2 a)]

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Zac Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, appeared in-person before the Committee with respect to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan.

Z. Cohoon highlighted the following activities and achievements of DAAC in 2024:

- Receiving presentations on various topics, including the Skilled Trades Programs in the Region; the North Durham On-Farm Diversified Uses Project; the Independent Electricity Systems Operator Battery Storage Site Selection; farm worker accommodation related by-law issues; Enbridge's proposed Natural Gas System Expansion; sustainability initiatives; width of culverts during road upgrades; the proposed Provincial Planning Statement update; Bill 136, Growing Agritourism Act; provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and excess soil challenges on agricultural lands.
- Providing advice to the Region on various agricultural related issues including backyard chickens and Avian Influenza; the North Durham On-Farm Diversified Uses Project; stormwater management fees on agricultural properties in Ajax; the Durham Food System Report Card; and various official plan amendment applications.
- Organizing educational and outreach initiatives, including presenting Agriculture 101 training to the area municipal councils; and hosting the Annual Farm Tour.

Z. Cohoon identified DAAC's priority initiatives set out in the 2025 Workplan.

Z. Cohoon responded to questions from the Committee.

Councillor Shahid requested that staff look into the issue of culvert widths during road construction.

The Committee thanked Z. Cohoon and members of DAAC for their contributions.

7.2 Jay Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, re: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-2) [Item 8.2 a)]

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Jay Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, appeared virtually before the Committee with respect to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan.

J. Cuthbertson highlighted the following activities and achievements of DECAC in 2024:

- Receiving presentations on various topics, including the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment; assessing lands for conservation status through the Municipal Protected Areas Project; the Durham Climate Dashboard; the Courtice District Energy System Project update; the 2024 Annual Climate Change Progress Report; the Durham Food System Report Card; Leveling the Playing Field for Energy Choices in Ontario; Sustainable Built Form; impacts of road salt on the environment and infrastructure; and Regional salt management practices.
- Providing advice to the Region on various environmental and climate change-related issues, including the Pollinator Pilot Project on Regional properties and rights-of-way; the Durham Region Strategic Plan; and Bill 199, the EV-Ready Homes Act.
- Organizing and/or participating in community outreach initiatives, including the Spring Bee Pollinator Seed Distribution Project; the Port Perry Lions Club Community Waste Diversion Day event; tours of the McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve and Oshawa Second Marsh; and the 2024 Annual Durham Climate Forum.

J. Cuthbertson identified DECAC's priority initiatives set out in the 2025 Workplan.

J. Cuthbertson responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee thanked J. Cuthbertson and members of DECAC for their contributions.

7.3 Ron Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee, re: Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-3) [Item 8.2 c]

Ron Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee, appeared in-person before the Committee with respect to the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan.

R. Lalonde highlighted the following activities and achievements of DATC in 2024:

- Receiving presentations on various topics, including the Region's Wayfinding and Signage Strategy; Greenup Canada's active transportation initiatives; the Region's Transit-Oriented Development Strategy; active transportation plans and projects for various local area municipalities; and Vision Zero updates.

- Providing advice to the Region and support to staff on various active transportation issues, including the repair initiatives of the North Durham Rail Trail Corridor; and the preparation and submission of an application for the Share the Road Cycling Coalition's "Bike Friendly" status.

R. Lalonde identified DATC's priority initiatives set out in the 2025 Workplan.

R. Lalonde responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee thanked R. Lalonde and members of DATC for their contributions.

## 8. **Community Growth**

### 8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to consider.

### 8.2 Reports

#### A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-1)

Report #2025-CG-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(4) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2025-CG-1 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received as the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2025 Workplan and Terms of Reference be approved, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 to Report #2025-CG-1; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-1 be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and Durham's area municipalities.

CARRIED

#### B) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-2)

Report #2025-CG-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(5) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2025-CG-2 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2024 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2025 Workplan and Terms of Reference be approved, as outlined in Attachments 1 and 2 to Report #2025-CG-2; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-2 be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

C) Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan (2025-CG-3)

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Report #2025-CG-3 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(6) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2025-CG-3 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received as the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2024 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2025 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2025-CG-3; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-3 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee and the Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

**9. Economic Development**

9.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to consider.

9.2 Reports

A) 2024 North Durham Building Business Forum (2025-EDT-1)

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Report #2025-EDT-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Woo,  
(7) That Report #2025-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Community Growth  
and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Gather at the Farm 2024 Agri-Food Marketing Campaign (2025-EDT-2)

Report #2025-EDT-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth  
and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the general feedback  
and overall success rate of the campaign; whether the farms have a means to  
digitally record the participants visiting the farms; whether there is an ability to  
identify farm visitors from outside of the Region, and determine which municipality  
they are from; and whether the Economic Development division has engaged with  
the organization A Country Path to promote the various farms they are associated  
with.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(8) That Report #2025-EDT-2 of the Commissioner of Community Growth  
and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

**10. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**11. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth & Economic Development  
Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the  
Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East,  
Whitby.

**14. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,  
(9) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Pickles, Acting Chair

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V. Walker, Committee Clerk