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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, April 9, 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.

Regional Chair Henry assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Anderson
Councillor Ashe*
Councillor Barton
Councillor Brenner
Councillor Carter
Councillor Chapman
Councillor Crawford*
Councillor Dies
Councillor Foster
Councillor Garrod
Councillor Jubb* attended the meeting at 10:08 AM
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Leahy*
Councillor Lee*
Councillor Marimpietri attended the meeting at 9:38 AM
Councillor McDougall*
Councillor Mulcahy
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Nicholson*
Councillor Pickles
Councillor Roy
Councillor Schummer* attended the meeting at 10:08 AM
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

All members of Committee were present with the exception of Councillors Collier, Cook, Shahid and Yamada.

Councillor Yamada was absent on Federal election business.

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, A. Burgess, B. Bridgeman, S. Ciani, S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, J. Dixon, C. Dunkley*, T. Fraser, S. Gill, C. Goodchild*, B. Goodwin, A. Harras, J. Hunt, R. Inacio, R. Jagannathan, R.J. Kyle, L. Loverly*, L. McIntosh*, I. McVey, G. Muller, N. Pincombe, M. Simpson, E. Valant*, and T. Zupancic*

***denotes staff participating electronically**

Regional Chair Henry announced that April 9th is Vimy Ridge Day and that flags at Regional facilities will be flown at half mast.

Regional Chair Henry also announced that April 9th is International Day of Pink and everyone is invited to celebrate diversity by wearing pink.

Regional Chair Henry advised that the Canadian Armed Forces is conducting a training exercise in Northumberland County from April 25 to 27, 2025, and he stated that residents may notice an increase in military presence on Regional roads and highways as personnel and equipment travel to the training exercise.

Regional Chair Henry also advised that five Regional staff members were awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal and he extended congratulations on behalf of Regional Council.

Councillor Chapman advised on April 19, 2025, the University of Toronto will be unveiling an exhibit for women in defence from World War II at the Canadian Tank Museum in the City of Oshawa.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

4. Presentations

4.1 Tara Zupanic, Climate Change and Health Specialist, Health Department, Re: Climate Change and Health in Durham Region - Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation

T. Zupancic provided a presentation regarding Climate Change and Health in Durham Region - Assessing the Impacts of Solar Ultraviolet Radiation. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Why assess climate and health vulnerability?

- Report Series: 2024-2025
- What are the report objectives?
- What is solar UVR vulnerability?
- Overview of solar UVR exposure in Durham Region
- Climate change and local solar UVR exposure
- What are the health impacts of solar UVR?
- Where are risks of exposure higher?
- Solar UVR Protections
- What actions can support sun-protection?
- What are our strengths and resources?
- Next Steps
- Key Messages
- Extreme heat report key messages

4.2 Michael Braithwaite, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Door, and Adrianna Vanderneut, Director of Quality, Compliance and Evaluation, Blue Door, Re: Housing for All Land Trust

M. Braithwaite and A. Vanderneut provided a presentation regarding the Housing for All Land Trust. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Blue Door Mission and Vision
- What is Housing for All Land Trust (HALT)?
- Overview
- HALT has the potential to create a lasting impact in the housing system
- We need help from Ontario municipalities to realize our mission

M. Braithwaite concluded by requesting that the Committee pass a motion to direct staff to continue to work with Blue Door regarding the Housing for All Land Trust.

M. Braithwaite and A. Vanderneut responded to questions with respect to the difference between the Housing for All Land Trust and Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation; the proposed partnership with the Region; whether available housing would be provided through the Region as a Service Manager; funding needs; how Blue Door would develop a property if land was provided and previous funding applications were denied; whether units remain affordable in perpetuity; and the Blue Door Construct program.

S. Danos-Papaconstantinou responded to a question with respect to the number of non-profit housing providers in Durham Region.

E. Valant spoke to the Service Manager's role in a land trust, and she stated that the Housing for All Land Trust would complement the work of the Service Manager and the Housing and Homelessness Service and Financing Strategy (2025-2034).

Regional Chair Henry advised that he has spoken with E. Baxter-Trahair, CAO, and staff will accept the request from M. Braithwaite for staff to continue to work with Blue Door regarding the Housing for All Land Trust as direction. It was requested that staff also consider the information provided from Partners for Affordable Housing.

4.3 Ian McVey, Manager, Sustainability, Re: Durham Greener Homes Program Update and Enhancements (2025-COW-17)

I. McVey provided a presentation regarding the Durham Greener Homes Program Update and Enhancements. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Greener Homes (DGH)
- DGH Performance to Date
- Energy Coaching is Highly Successful
- New Virtual Home Energy Audit Tool
- Proposed Durham Greener Homes Program Enhancements
- Proposed Climate resilience (“Weather Ready”) Services
- Extreme Weather – Unprecedented Cost Pressures on Home and Building Owners
- Extreme Weather Impacts in Durham Region
- Opportunity to Leverage New FCM Funding
- Opportunity to Leverage Municipal Lending
- Helping Residents get “Weather Ready”
- Proposed Program
- Multi-hazard Home Resilience Assessment
- Targeted Approach to Reducing Financial Barriers
- Targeted Weather-ready Measures
- Communication and Community Engagement
- Industry Collaboration
- Next Steps on Weather-Ready Program Enhancement
- Proposed Durham Greener Homes Financing Program
- Financing to Support Full Range of Climate Action
- Durham Greener Homes Loan Features
- Home Renovation Financing Program Administration Process
- Next Steps on Durham Greener Homes Financing Program

I. McVey responded to questions with respect to the source of funds for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing program.

4.4 Township of Brock State of Emergency Update

Regional Chair Henry advised that the Township of Brock Emergency Operations Centre is still operational, and he thanked Regional staff for their work to support

the Township of Brock. He added that the Works Department sent equipment to support the City of Orillia and Region of Durham Paramedic Services sent staff to support the City of Kawartha Lakes. Councillors Schummer and Jubb thanked Regional Chair Henry and Regional staff.

4.5 Hannover Messe 2025 Update

Regional Chair Henry asked that staff provide a verbal update on the Hannover Messe 2025 event. He noted that Councillors Ashe, Collier, Roy and Marimpietri attended the event.

E. Baxter-Trahair advised that Hannover Messe 2025 was held March 31 to April 4, 2025 in Hannover, Germany. She stated that it was impressive to see how the Regional and Local Economic Development Departments worked together to make the event a huge success and worked in partnership with our educational institutions, the Spark Centre and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association.

S. Gill advised that the event appears to be an overwhelming success, and they met or surpassed the targets set. He also advised that they had dozens of meetings with prospective investors, over 1,000 attendees visited their booth, they had a seminar and networking session with the City of Nuremberg and Nuremberg Chamber of Commerce, and they strengthened relationships with senior government agencies. He stated that staff are still collecting metrics and will bring forward a report in September 2025.

Discussion ensued with respect to the event; the planning and work involved with attending such events; international trade; the Project Arrow concept car; and the Project Arrow 2.0 announcement.

5. **Delegations**

There were no delegations heard.

6. **Correspondence**

6.1 Memorandum from the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, Re: Durham Greener Homes Program Update and Enhancements (2025-COW-17)

Moved by Councillor Foster, Seconded by Councillor Roy,
(42) That correspondence from the Durham Environment and Climate
Advisory Committee be referred to consideration of Report #2025-COW-
17 of the Chief Administrative Officer.

CARRIED

7. Reports

7.1 Durham Greener Homes Program Update and Enhancements (2025-COW-17)

Report #2025-COW-17 from E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the proposed Local Improvement Charge financing option; the loan being secured to the property; performance metrics; the process to quantify energy efficiency improvements; the customer rating for energy coaching; public messaging and statistics from the Insurance Bureau of Canada; whether free home resilience kits are only for income-eligible residents; and home assessments for renters.

Moved by Councillor Brenner, Seconded by Councillor Foster,
(43) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional Council endorse the enhancements to the Durham Greener Homes Program as outlined in Report #2025-COW-17 of the Chief Administrative Officer, including:
 - i) Introducing services to support Durham Region residents in undertaking “weather-ready” home renovations that reduce the impacts and potential costs associated with extreme weather events on their homes through expert advice, program funding supports, industry training, and community engagement; and
 - ii) Introducing a direct municipality-to-homeowner loan financing program, led by the Region and based on authority granted under the Municipal Act (2001), and associated Ontario Regulations 322/12 and 586/06 which authorizes municipalities to make available a Local Improvement Charge (LIC) financing option for energy and water retrofits on private property, subject to the Region successfully renegotiating the existing Grant and Loan Loss Reserve funding agreement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) through their Community Efficiency Financing (CEF) program to enable funds to be redirected towards home energy and water retrofit loan financing program;
- B) That staff be authorized to negotiate and award a sole source agreement with the Windfall Ecology Centre to deliver the proposed weather-ready enhancements through existing Durham Greener Homes Program supported by approved operating funding for a period of up to four (4) years (April 2025-March 2029);

- C) That Regional Council direct staff to prepare and submit a funding proposal through FCM's Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation program Financing Adaptation Stream anticipated to launch in Fall 2025 to support the full implementation of the Durham Greener Homes Program weather-ready program as outlined in Report #2025-COW-17;
- D) That the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into all necessary agreements with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and other partners, in forms satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor and Commissioner of Finance, to support implementation of the Program enhancements outlined in Report #2025-COW-17;
- E) That debenture financing from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities not to exceed \$2 million be approved to implement the direct municipality-to-homeowner loan financing program outlined in Recommendation A) ii);
- F) That the Commissioner of Finance/Regional Treasurer, Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to enter into any loan agreements or execute other documents that may be required to receive the debenture financing from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
- G) That approval be granted for the requisite by-laws to receive loan or grant financing from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advance the Durham Greener Homes Program and the direct municipality-to-homeowner loan financing program; and
- H) That a copy of Report #2025-COW-17 be forwarded to local area municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks, Housing Infrastructure and Communities Canada, the Durham Region Home Builders' Association, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), for their information.

CARRIED

8. Members Motions

There were no members motions to be considered.

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,

(44) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM

Respectfully submitted,

John Henry, Regional Chair

T. Fraser, Committee Clerk