

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**June 10, 2025**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 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: Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair

N. Guthrie, Ajax

J. McKay\*, Durham Farm Fresh

G. O'Connor, Member at Large

D. Risebrough, Member at Large

H. Schillings, Member at Large

B. Smith\*, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair

M. Somerville, Member at Large

D. Stevenson, Oshawa

G. Taylor, Pickering

T. Watpool, Brock

W. Woo, Regional Councillor Alternate

W. Wotten\*, Regional Councillor

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

Absent: T. Barrie, Clarington

R. Death, Whitby

B. Hulshof, Uxbridge

M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture

N. Swain, Scugog, Vice-Chair

#### **Staff**

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development

R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT

A. Janes, Project Manager, Works Department

M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development

K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

L. Talling\*, Acting Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development

**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

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

M. Sommerville made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 4.B) Presentation by Dean Orr, Ontario Farmland Trust – Vision for the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve. He indicated that he works as a Heritage Planner for the City of Pickering in which the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve is located.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by G. Taylor,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

## **4. Presentations**

### **A) Carey Yeoman, Durham College – Barrett Centre Program Update**

Carey Yeoman, Durham College, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Barrett Centre Program Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Barrett Centre Ajax Urban Farm
- The Barrett Centre Indoor Farm
- Hoop Houses
- Market Ranges
- Partnerships in Motion
- Stouffville Location
- Curriculum Informed Programming
- In Classroom Opportunities – Grade 1-12
- On Farm Opportunities – Grade 1-12
- Food IQ Workshops
- Community Respite
- Open House Days
- Farm Gate Sales
- Additional Revenue
- Urban Agriculture Community Portal and Resource Distribution
- Barrett Centre Knowledge Centre
- Elevating Agriculture's Profile

C. Yeoman responded to questions with regards to which lower tier municipalities are part of the service area; the areas of Durham Region that are travelling to the Barrett Centre for on farm opportunities; the high schools that are partnering with the Barrett Centre; whether the program will be expanding to the northern municipalities in Durham Region; clarification on how the program is organically lead; and the farm model required to offer the program.

B) Dean Orr, Ontario Farmland Trust – Vision for the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve

---

Dean Orr, Ontario Farmland Trust, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Vision for the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Ontario Farmland Trust
- Why We're Here Today
- Why Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve (DRAP)?
- Why create a vision for DRAP?
- About the Project
- Project Activities
- Who else are we reaching out to?
- Examples of ideas and opportunities
- How You Can Help

D. Orr responded to questions with regards to restrictions on using chemicals within the DRAP; whether tile drainage can be added; experience with trespassers onto the preserve; buying and selling land within the Ontario Farmland Trust; who currently owns the DRAP; potential changes to the overseeing body to the DRAP; whether any land within the Ontario Farmland Trust has changed ownership within the last 10 years; whether the DRAP is within the Greenbelt; and changing the legislation around easements.

Discussion ensued with regards to making agriculture profitable for the next generation; lands being protected under the Ontario Farmland Trust for 1,000 years; and supporting the easements being transferred to the Ontario Farmland Trust from the City of Pickering.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by G.L. O'Connor,  
That we recommend to the Community Growth and Economic  
Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation  
to Regional Council:

That Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's support of the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve (DRAP) easements being transferred from the City of Pickering to the Ontario Farmland Trust.

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING  
RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

J. McKay  
G.L. O'Connor  
D. Risebrough  
H. Schillings  
B. Smith  
D. Stevenson

No

N. Guthrie

G. Taylor  
T. Watpool  
Councillor Wotten  
Z. Cohoon, Chair

Members Absent: T. Barrie  
R. Death  
B. Hulshof  
M. Shiers  
N. Swain

Declarations of Interest: M. Sommerville

C) Andrew Janes, Project Manager, Durham Region Works Department – Roads Capital Program Update

---

Andrew Janes, Project Manager, Works Department, Durham Region, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Roads Capital Program Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Presentation
- 2024 Accomplishments
  - Service Improvements
- 2025 Roads Projects
  - Bowmanville Ave. (Reg. Rd. 57) from Baseline Rd. to south of Reg. Hwy. 2, Clarington
  - Simcoe St. (Reg. Rd. 2) from 0.2km south of Old Simcoe to 0.8km north of Scugog Line 3, Scugog
  - Taunton Rd. (Reg. Rd. 4) from east of Townline Rd. to west of Enfield Rd., Clarington
  - Island Rd. (Reg. Rd. 7) from Fralicks Beach Rd. to Carnegie Beach Rd., Scugog
  - Reg. Rd. 12 Cameron Street from Simcoe Street to 0.65km east of Laidlaw Street, Brock
  - Zephyr Rd. (Reg. Rd. 13) from Conc. 3 (Reg. Rd. 39) to Conc. 4, Uxbridge
  - Reg. Rd. 13 from 0.3km east of Hwy 12 to 4.9km east of Hwy 12, Brock
  - Lake Ridge Road (Reg. Rd. 23) from 0.2km north of Reg. Hwy 47 to 0.42km south of Blue Mountain Road, Uxbridge/Scugog
  - York/Durham Line (Reg. Rd. 30) from 0.16km north of Aurora Road to 0.25km south of Reg. Rd. 8, Uxbridge
  - Shore Line Rd. (Reg. Rd. 47) from 0.1km north of Mara Rd. to Durham/Simcoe Boundary, Brock
  - Reg. Rd. 57 from Shirley Rd. to 0.7km north of Edgerton Rd., Scugog
- Proposed 2025 Structures Replacement/Rehabilitation Projects
- Planned 2025 Road Tenders Funded from Previous Year Budgets

- Planned Culvert Replacement at Central Street over Mitchell Creek with Provisions for Future Road Widening
- Road Closures for Bridge Replacement
- Major Future Projects

A. Janes responded to questions with regards to whether Island Road in the Township of Scugog will be widened; the new proposed width and whether there will be guardrails on the planned culvert replacement at Central Street over Mitchell Creek; whether Simcoe Street is Regionally owned; whether community input is considered when major construction is happening on two roads in close proximity; when the roundabout on Taunton Road at Courtice Road will begin construction; the potential budget impacts on road improvements; and the new width for Simcoe Street between Townline Road and Shirely Road.

Discussion ensued with regards to the potential express train between Toronto and Peterborough and the need for another north-south road between Regional Road 57 and Simcoe Street.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update**

---

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Precision Agricultural Field Day was held on May 27, 2025 at the Barrie Farm and was well received by the over 50 students.
- A. De Vos was a panelist on the Housing Needs and Actions for the Agricultural Sector in Rural Greenbelt Communities webinar hosted by Greenbelt Foundation.
- Staff will be participating in a meeting with Invest Durham's Business Development and Invest Durham team and OMAFA to discuss future agri-food investment opportunities for Durham Region. Staff will provide an update at the next meeting.

### **B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update**

---

T. Barrie was not in attendance to provide the Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington update.

### **C) Durham Farm Fresh Update**

---

J. McKay provided the following Durham Farm Fresh update:

- Strawberry season is beginning to open up.
- There are 48 members this year on Durham Farm Fresh.
- The new Durham Farm Fresh brochures have been distributed.

- There are 3 culinary demonstrations booked for the year in partnership with Durham Farm Connections, Durham Tourism and Chef Alex Page.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Sommerville advised he has been retained by the Barrett Centre and the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance to prepare a paper focusing on economically viable near-urban and urban agriculture by looking at vertical agriculture, agri-hoods, aqua-culture and rooftop greenhouses. The paper is to research what is limiting urban agriculture and at developing zoning by-laws that will allow for more urban agriculture to be integrated throughout the GTHA.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

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

F) 2025 DAAC Farm Tour

D. Risebrough advised that there will be a site meeting to finalize remaining details; and that the menu has been finalized with a change from beef to pork loin and chicken, and the greens for the salad will be provided by Mighty Harvest. D. Risebrough suggested a sub-committee meeting take place at the end of August to go over the final details and requested that a Committee member be at each table on the day of the event.

**6. Information Items**

A) DAAC Resolution – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Rural Clean Water Program

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution regarding Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Rural Clean Water Program for recommendation to the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

B) #2025-EDT-8 – Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority General Update

A copy of Commissioner Report #2025-EDT-8 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) Township of Scugog – Delegation Regarding an Introduction to DAAC, a Summary of DAAC's Work in 2024

Correspondence from Blair Labelle, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk, Township of Scugog, regarding Delegation Regarding an Introduction to DAAC, a

Summary of DAAC's Work in 2024, was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

D) #2025-EDT-11 – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week

A copy of Commissioner Report #2025-EDT-11 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #5 to the agenda and received.

E) #2025-INFO-37 – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Annual Presentations to Area Municipal Councils

A copy of Information Report #2025-INFO-37 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #6 to the agenda and received.

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by D. Risebrough,  
That Information Items 6. A) to 6. E) inclusive, be received for information.  
CARRIED

**7. Other Business**

A) Future Off-Site DAAC Meeting

M. Scott advised staff are looking into holding an off-site meeting at Mighty Harvest and more information will be provided when details have been finalized.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by M. Sommerville, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

---

Z. Cohoon, Chair

---

K. Smith, Committee Clerk