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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 10, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:31 PM

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
E. Bowman, Clarington, attended the meeting at 7:35 PM
B. Howsam, Member at Large
J. Henderson, Oshawa
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Regional Councillor
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: I. Bacon, Member at Large

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development left the meeting at 8:47 PM
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Howsam, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on March 20, 2018 be adopted.
CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Presentations

A) Dan Ruby, Ontario Centres of Excellence, Overview of Programs

The presentation from D. Ruby, Ontario Centres of Excellence, was deferred to the June 12th meeting.

B) Richard Scott, Parks Canada, Rouge Park Management Plan Update

Richard Scott and Omar McDadi provided a presentation to the Committee with regards to the Rouge Park Management Plan Update. A copy of a Parks Canada Newsletter entitled “Rouge Review – Rouge National Urban Park – 2017 Year In Review” as well as a map of the Rouge National Urban Park, were provided to committee members.

O. McDadi stated that 2017 was a monumental year for Parks Canada. He stated that in collaboration with indigenous partners, park farmers, volunteers, various levels of government, conservation groups and community organizations, Parks Canada achieved a number of important legislative and land assembly milestones. He stated that Parks Canada currently manages or has an interest in nearly 80 per cent of the 79 square kilometres of Rouge National Urban Park lands which stretch from Lake Ontario in the South to the Oak Ridges Moraine in the North.

R. Scott stated that the Rouge National Urban Park’s draft management plan was released in 2014 and that there have been a series of recent workshops held with various stakeholders, farmers, volunteers, government agencies and the 10 first nations to obtain input and enrich the plan. Parks Canada is hoping to finalize the plan and submit to the Ministry of the Environment for approval later this year.

R. Scott and O. McDadi also stated that Parks Canada is working on the development of a leasing strategy to transition to long-term leases with tenant farmers.

R. Scott and O. McDadi responded to questions with regards to whether there are options available to terminate a 30 year lease and penalties involved; clarification of the leasing framework that will be submitted to farmers; rent rates for different classes of lands; clarification regarding the acres of lands rated as Class 1, 2 and 3 farmland; and whether Parks Canada has looked at other plans or models. The committee suggested that another representative from Parks Canada attend a subsequent meeting to provide further information and obtain feedback from the committee with regards to the long term lease strategy.

4. Discussion Items

The Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update was provided at this time.

D) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

N. Rutherford provided the following update on behalf of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development:

- Durham Farm Connections has been nominated to receive the “Food & Farming Champion” Award at the Farm & Food Care Ontario Annual Conference on April 11, 2018.
- The Durham Farm Connections Grade 3 Annual Program was held on April 3 to 5, 2018, along with the associated public open house in the evening of April 4, 2018, at the Luther Vipond Memorial Arena in Brooklin and was a huge success.
- The Local Food Business Networking Event to pair producers with local restaurants and chefs was held at Durham College’s Bistro 67, on April 10, 2018 from 10 AM to 1:30 PM and was well attended.
- The Region’s lead Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project is well underway and staff is hoping to interview 80 businesses by the end of April. So far the interviews have been engaging and a great way to make connections, understand local food opportunities and challenges and further provide various services and support to local business.
- Presentations from representatives from Durham Farm Connections and Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association were well received at the March 7, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

A) Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document

K. Kilbourne provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document and the Agricultural Community Webinar held by the Province on March 28, 2018.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of the Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document
- What is an Agricultural Impact Assessment?
- When is an AIA required?
- AIAs and the Agricultural System
- What do AIAs mean for farmers?

- Who will complete an AIA?
- Components of an AIA
- Role of farmers/landowners and agri-food representatives
- Questions

K. Kilbourne reviewed the results of the webinar and advised that the draft AIA Guidance Document is open for comment until July 2018. She requested that the committee provide their comments at the May meeting which will be incorporated into a staff report to be presented at the June 6th Committee of the Whole meeting.

B) Climate Change Agricultural Task Force Update

K. Kilbourne advised that the next Expert Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2018.

C) 2018 DAAC Farm Tour

D. Risebrough advised that the subcommittee met on March 28, 2018. He confirmed that the focus of the September 13th Farm Tour will be the full cycle of crop production. He confirmed that there is an excellent space at the site for the presentations and lunch and is waiting for confirmation of availability from speaker(s). It was requested that K. Kilbourne provide a copy of the invite list to committee members for their review before invitations are sent out. Members were asked to review names and provide any revisions as they see fit to K. Kilbourne.

5. Information Items

A) Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update (2018-INFO-46)

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-46 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

B) Regional Official Plan Amendment 2018-001, Youngfield Farms Limited (2018-COW-49)

A copy of Report #2018-COW-49 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Youngfield Farms Limited, was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

C) 2018 Development Charges Background Study and Proposed By-law
(2018-COW-64)

A copy of the 2018 Development Charges Background Study and Proposed By-law was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda. Copies of Report 2018-COW-64, Public Meetings Regarding Proposed Development Charges By-laws and Background Studies were available for committee members. K. Kilbourne advised that written submissions are due by May 21, 2018 for consideration in the preparation of the final development charge recommendations and by-laws and it was recommended that the committee provide any comments at the May 8th DAAC meeting.

6. Other Business

A) Ontario Farmland Trust – Annual Farmland Forum

K. Kilbourne advised that she attended the Annual Farmland Forum in Prince Edward County on April 5, 2018. She stated that there were interesting presentations from Kim Grout from the Agricultural Land Commission in British Columbia with regards to the Agricultural Land Reserve and from OMAFRA with regards to Provincial Policy Perspectives.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

8. Adjournment

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by K. Kennedy,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk