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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 9, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM

Present: E. Bowman, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:32 PM
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:35 PM
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: I. Bacon, Member at Large
J. Henderson, Oshawa
G. O'Connor, Regional Chair

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on September 11, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

H. Schillings made a declaration of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* with respect to Item 4 C) Correspondence from MPAC regarding on-farm business subclasses. He indicated that he owns property that may be financially impacted.

3. Presentations

A) Nancy Rutherford, Durham Agricultural Strategy Update

N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, provided a verbal report regarding the update of the Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy by way of telephone conference call.

She stated that the Agricultural Strategy assists the Durham agricultural industry by: attracting, retaining and expanding agriculture and agri-food business; promoting outreach and education; maintaining a supportive policy environment; and supporting the agricultural labor force.

N. Rutherford advised that consultation for the update of the Durham Agricultural Strategy will be coordinated with the Durham Region Official Plan review. She advised that further next steps will be to hire a consultant to meet with key stakeholders to review the plan, and focus efforts on current issues in the agriculture and agri-food sector.

4. Discussion Items

It was the consensus of the Committee to receive the Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update [Item 4. B)] from N. Rutherford at this time.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – N. Rutherford

N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs provided the following update:

- With regards to the Local BR&E Project, 64 agri-food businesses across the 8 area municipalities have been interviewed and staff is working with a consultant to review the data as well as host data retreats to present the results.

A) 2018 DAAC Farm Tour

A copy of the DAAC Farm Tour 2018 Survey Response Summary was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

Z. Cohoon thanked Committee Members for their help and contribution to a successful Farm Tour. The following points were made about the tour:

- Great turnout and weather
- The designated parking lot worked well
- Presentations were well received
- Great survey responses

Discussion ensued regarding possibilities for the 2019 Farm Tour.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – N. Rutherford

The Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update was provided earlier in the meeting (see page 2 of these minutes).

C) Correspondence from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) re: On-Farm Business Subclasses

A copy of the correspondence from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) dated June 11, 2018 regarding small-scale on-farm business subclasses was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

Discussion ensued with regards to the announcement made by the Minister of Finance regarding optional subclasses for both industrial and commercial property classes to promote and support local farm enterprises across Ontario. K. Kilbourne advised that MPAC is currently assessing how many properties in Durham will qualify for the tax reduction for small-scale on-farm businesses and will provide information to eligible property owners and the Durham Region Finance Department once their assessment is completed. She advised that a representative from MPAC will be available to present to DAAC in early 2019 with regards to the on-farm business subclasses.

Further discussion ensued with regards to the Committee's support in the creation of the new subclasses and the adoption of a by-law when the MPAC assessment is complete and more information is available.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC)
recommends to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That Regional Council actively pursue the investigation of the creation of subclasses for small scale on-farm businesses by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

CARRIED

5. Information Items

A) Correspondence from CLOCA regarding Updates to Watershed Plans

A copy of the correspondence from Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority dated September 20, 2018 regarding a Watershed Plan Review was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received. K. Kilbourne advised that a representative from CLOCA has been invited to present at the November meeting.

6. Other Business

A) Membership of Committee Members

K. Kilbourne requested that Committee Members provide confirmation in writing to her with regards to whether or not they wish to serve another term on the Committee.

B) December 11, 2018 DAAC Meeting

K. Kilbourne inquired whether Committee Members wished to cancel or proceed with the December 11, 2018 meeting. It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with the meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

8. Adjournment

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk