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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM

Present: Councillor Ryan, Chair  
Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Hight  
Councillor Kerr attended the meeting at 9:36 AM  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Yamada  
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Councillor Wotten

Absent: Councillor Bath-Hadden was absent due to municipal business

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
B. Anderson, Principal Planner  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies  
J. Kelly, Principal Planner  
T. Lavery, Manager, Corporate Communications  
G. Muller, Director of Planning  
D. Pagratis, Project Planner  
B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism  
S. Rashad, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
N. Rutherford, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
M. Stevenson, Manager, Administrative Services  
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation  
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
(11) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

**3. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**4. Delegations**

There were no delegations to be heard.

**5. Presentations**

5.1 Brad Anderson, Principal Planner, re: Proposed Durham Region Broadband Strategy, "Connecting our Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region" (2019-P-3)

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G. Muller advised that the Broadband Strategy was initiated following Regional Council direction in 2017 in response to a previous federal broadband funding program. He stated that to be ready for future federal funding programs it was acknowledged that a Regional Broadband Strategy was needed.

B. Anderson, Principal Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2019-P-3 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Laura Bradley, Managing Partner, Actionable Intelligence was also in attendance. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Context
- Study Process and Priorities
- Connectivity Guidelines
- Actions
  - Action 1: Leverage Regional Assets
  - Action 2: Develop Regional Policies and Processes to Support Broadband
  - Action 3: Assess Corporate Broadband Needs and Smart City Needs through the Corporate IT Strategy
  - Action 4: Support Funding Applications
  - Action 5: Identify an Internal Lead/Champion (Broadband Coordinator)
  - Action 6: Establish a Broadband Working Group

- Action 7: Create a Broadband Information Database
- Action 8: Facilitate Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation
- Action 9: Advocate and Educate on the Importance of Broadband Infrastructure
- Action 10: Develop a Durham Smart Cities Framework

B. Anderson and L. Bradley responded to questions with respect to the possibility of negotiating with wireless carriers for cellular service; the possibility of working with existing carriers in the northern municipalities; the service model used by existing carriers in rural areas; the possibility of providing financial contributions; the proposed funding model; 2019 budget implications; the proposed “Dig Once” policy; the anticipated implementation timeline; and the possibility of broadband being declared a basic human right.

5.2 Jonah Kelly, Principal Planner, re: Envision Durham – Public Engagement Launch (2019-P-4)

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J. Kelly, Principal Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2019-P-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. He advised that the purpose of Report #2019-P-4 is to launch the public engagement program for Envision Durham, the Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Regional Official Plan. He briefly outlined the work undertaken since the review commenced in May 2018.

J. Kelly outlined the proposed public engagement program. He explained that a framework has been prepared with the Region’s Corporate Communications Office and that Envision Durham will include an enhanced online presence using the project website: [durham.ca/EnvisionDurham](http://durham.ca/EnvisionDurham). He also advised that public engagement will take place in four stages and each stage will provide an opportunity to reach stakeholders and engage interested parties.

J. Kelly provided an overview of the four stages. He advised that Stage 1 will introduce the Envision Durham project and its scope. He stated that Stage 1 includes a public opinion survey and he outlined the survey components. He also advised that in Stage 2 participants will be asked to provide input on various themes and this stage will begin once the first discussion paper is brought forward. Stage 3 will include the release of theme-based policy direction reports and solicit input on proposed directions and policy changes. Stage 4 includes releasing the draft Official Plan for review and comment and submitting the final Official Plan to the Province for approval, following Regional Council’s adoption.

J. Kelly further advised that Envision Durham is based on a community engagement process that gathers input to help shape the future vision for Durham Region. He stated that the engagement program will meet and exceed the statutory consultation requirements of the Planning Act. He concluded by showing the Envision Durham introductory video.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the purpose of the municipal comprehensive review; when the last municipal comprehensive review was completed; the reason for ending in the year 2041; the proposed public opinion survey; the public engagement program stages; processes and best practices from other jurisdictions; and whether the review would be impacted if new Provincial policies are introduced.

G. Muller advised that a report will be presented at the February 27, 2019 Regional Council meeting related to proposed Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

5.3 Dimitri Pagratis, Project Planner, re: Region of Durham Draft Woodland Conservation and Management By-law (2019-P-5)

D. Pagratis, Project Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2019-P-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Tree By-law Purpose
- Permit Applications
  - Good Forestry Practices Permit Application
  - Clear Cutting Permit Application
- Regional Tree By-law History
- Proposed Amendment Areas
  - Provincial and Regulatory Conformity
  - Enforcement Parameters
  - Application Circulation and Notifications
  - Fees and Fines
  - Other House Keeping Amendments
- Next Steps

Staff responded to questions with respect to the proposed definitions of clear cut and cumulative removal; the application of the by-law as it relates to residential development and Planning Act processes; proposed fine amounts; the process for increasing fine amounts; current enforcement practices; by-law compliance; the tracking of violations; the Regional Official Plan target for woodland coverage; the possibility of encouraging the planting of specific tree species; and whether there are ways for the Region to encourage tree planting.

**6. Planning**

6.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

6.2 Reports

A) Proposed Durham Region Broadband Strategy, "Connecting our Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region" (2019-P-3)

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Report #2019-P-3 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the proposed Broadband Coordinator position; the ten proposed actions in the Broadband Strategy; whether funding has been included in the proposed 2019 budget; the status of initiatives by other service providers; the status of initiatives by the Township of Scugog; experiences in other areas with municipal owned networks; and the anticipated timing of release of the CRTC Broadband Fund program details.

Discussion ensued with respect to the possibility of leveraging Regional assets, including Durham Regional Police Service facilities and equipment, to expand broadband services.

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,  
(12) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Council recognize the importance of adequate broadband infrastructure for the wellbeing and economic competitiveness of the Region's residents, businesses, and institutions;
- B) That "Connecting our Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region", dated February 5, 2019 (Attachment #1 to Report #2019-P-3) be endorsed in principle, subject to any additional resources being contingent upon the approval of the 2019 budget and subsequent budget processes;
- C) That the Regional Chair write to the Provincial Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade and local Ministers of Provincial Parliament requesting that the Province consider its own financial contribution in support of Internet service provider applications under the Canadian Radio-Television Commission's Broadband Fund; and
- D) That a copy of Report #2019-P-3 and the attached Broadband Strategy be forwarded to the Area Municipalities, local Members of Parliament and local Members of Provincial Parliament, the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and shared electronically with stakeholders that participated over the course of the project.

CARRIED

B) Envision Durham – Public Engagement Launch (2019-P-4)

Report #2019-P-4 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the timeline for retaining consulting services; whether funding is included in the 2019 budget; and the work to be completed by consultants. Staff also responded to questions with respect to proposed changes to density targets in the Growth Plan; and whether the Provincial government has proposed any changes for expansion of settlement areas.

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(13) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2019-P-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and
- B) That a copy of Report #2019-P-4 be forwarded to Durham's area municipalities, conservation authorities and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

CARRIED

C) Region of Durham Draft Woodland Conservation and Management By-law (2019-P-5)

Report #2019-P-5 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

It was requested that staff review the possibility of increasing fine amounts in the proposed draft by-law.

Staff agreed to provide Councillor Joe Neal with a mark-up version of the draft by-law identifying the proposed changes prior to the Regional Council meeting.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(14) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Regional staff be authorized to circulate the Draft Region of Durham Woodland Conservation and Management By-law to Regional Stakeholders, including: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF); the Region's Conservation Authorities; area municipal staff and by-law enforcement officers; the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC); the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC); and local forest practitioners; and

- B) That Regional staff report back to Planning and Economic Development Committee with a recommended Regional Woodland Conservation and Management By-law for its consideration.

CARRIED

**7. Economic Development**

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

There were no Economic Development reports to consider.

**8. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**9. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**10. Other Business**

10.1 Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy

Councillor Joe Neal asked staff to provide a schedule of meetings that the Region's Agricultural Consultant would be attending in relation to the Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy.

10.2 Regional Development Charges

Councillor Kerr advised that he had met with Regional staff regarding the Regional Development charges applicable for major office development and he was satisfied with how the charges are imposed by the Region and incentive programs available.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**12. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,  
(15) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Ryan, Chair

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T. Fraser, Committee Clerk