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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 10, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:32 PM

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax

Also

Present: G. Highet, Regional Councillor

Absent:

T. Barrie, Clarington
D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
G. Taylor, Pickering

Staff

Present: S. Hardman, Manager of Corporate Initiatives, Office of the CAO attended the meeting at 8:05 PM and left at 8:49 PM
K. Kilbourne, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development left the meeting at 8:49 PM
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on June 11, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Delegations

A) Michael Peace, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority – Agricultural Opportunities at Oshawa Port

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That M. Peace be granted a one-time 2-minute extension in order to finish his delegation.

CARRIED

M. Peace, Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority, provided a verbal presentation regarding agricultural opportunities at the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority. M. Peace stated that Oshawa's Port Authority merged with Hamilton's as of June 18, 2019 and became an amalgamated entity. He stated that Oshawa's vision is to see marine related land development and truck infrastructure with a strategy to get more cargo off highways and onto marine transport.

Discussion ensued with regards to the current products received at the Port Authority; the volume they expect to see this year in grains; whether they are able to run 24 hours; and whether farmers are able to unload their own trucks.

4. Presentations

A) Sonya Hardman, CAO's Office – Durham Region Strategic Plan Update Consultation

S. Hardman, Manager of Corporate Initiatives, provided her presentation later in the meeting (see pages 4 and 5 of these minutes).

5. Discussion Items

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

N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, provided an update with regards to the following:

- The Durham Region Agricultural Strategy is being finalized. The draft Strategy is anticipated to be presented to DAAC in October.
- The Durham Farm Connections High School Program will be taking place at the Archbishop Denis O'Connor High School in Ajax. Students will learn about the many economic, environmental and educational opportunities the agriculture sector provides.

- The 2019 Canadian Plowing Match will be held in Sunderland, Ontario on October 2, 3, and 4, 2019.
- Durham Region has partnered with Durham Farm Fresh for the Gates Open event being held on October 5, 2019. The event is a self-guided tour that is open to the public.
- The Durham Region Farmers Market will be held on October 10, 2019.
- The Royal Winter Fair will be held from December 1 to 10, 2019. The Region will have a booth from December 1 to 3. N. Rutherford requested that committee members advise if they know of any vendors looking for booth space.
- N. Rutherford advised that she recently accompanied the Mayor of Pickering as well as senior staff and councillors from the City of Pickering on a tour of the following local greenhouses; Greenwood Mushrooms in Port Perry; Rekkers Greenhouse in Clarington; and Links Greenhouse in Clarington.
- 1855 Whitby is an innovation accelerator that helps high potential tech companies advance to large-scale commercialization. N. Rutherford stated that master classes are being held and Whitby 1855 is looking for local food and beverage companies to showcase at the end of the classes. She requested that committee members advise her of any interested companies.

B) Agriculture Education & Event Centre Feasibility Project Update

N. Rutherford advised that the consultant for the Agriculture Education and Event Centre Feasibility Project is currently working on a business case for a new site. She advised that the new site could include: an education and event centre; a year-round market; a hub for product distribution; and a commercial kitchen. She further advised that there will be further steering committee meetings on October 8 and November 12, should anyone wish to attend.

C) Agricultural Strategy Update

This update was provided earlier in the meeting during the Rural and Agricultural Economic Update (see Item 5. A) on page 2 of these minutes).

D) 2019 DAAC Farm Tour

Z. Cohoon and D. Risebrough provided the following brief update with respect to the 2019 DAAC Farm Tour:

- Volunteers will be needed to pick up picnic tables from Greenbank Park
- The number of guests who rsvp'd is 140

- Volunteers needed to help with parking and set up in the morning as well as after the event
- Corn stalks and bales of hay will be brought in for the registration table decor

4. Presentations

A) Sonya Hardman, CAO's Office – Durham Region Strategic Plan Update Consultation

At this time in the meeting, S. Hardman, Manager of Corporate Initiatives, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Durham Region Strategic Plan Update Consultation.

S. Hardman stated that the Region of Durham is currently developing its five-year strategic plan, a guiding document that will identify priorities for Regional Council while creating a framework for the organization's service planning and delivery. She stated that there are four main components to the strategic planning process as follows and stated that she would like the committee's input with regards to the first two:

1. Analyzing our current state
2. Defining our Preferred Future State
3. Determining our Key Objectives and Strategies
4. Implementation and Evaluation

S. Hardman requested feedback on three key questions and the committee provided the following input:

1. What challenges are we currently facing as a Region?
 - Varying opinions between the north and south communities
 - Road infrastructure is a problem
 - Restrictions on the widening of roads
 - Tolls on highways need to be addressed
 - Development charges
 - The Greenbelt limits the growth in the three northern municipalities; this growth is important to sustain the municipalities
 - Need expansion of water and sewer services in the northern municipalities
 - Greenbelt in the way of existing services being provided to rural residences
 - Foreseeable problems with regards to changes made by the province regarding amalgamation

2. Given these challenges, what are the top priorities or most pressing issues that we need to focus on over the next 5 years?
 - Infrastructure and services that are mandatory to the Region
 - Need transportation corridors to encourage business to move to the Region
 - Focus on attracting value-added businesses and agriculture related businesses
 - Region should sell itself as the next gateway to the East
 - Lands need to be serviced
 - Be mindful that rules and decisions impact farmers differently
 - Wider roads and fewer traffic lights
 - Look at farm tourism and retail outlets that support agriculture
 - Zoning requirements
 - Address inconsistencies in municipal by-laws and interpretations

3. What do we want Durham Region to be known for?
 - Being open for business
 - Unique in that there are both urban and rural structures
 - Close proximity to larger cities
 - A good place to live and work

S. Hardman advised that there are additional opportunities to provide input. She advised that there is a new digital platform for 24/7 feedback as well as the Strategic Plan Community Survey which will be open until September 30, 2019.

5. Discussion Items

E) Envision Durham Update

K. Kilbourne advised that a copy of Report #2019-P-35 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Engagement and Outreach – and Public Opinion Survey Summary were provided as Attachments #7 and #8 to the Agenda.

F) 2019-P-32 OPA 2019-003 Werrcroft Farms Ltd. Public Meeting Report

A copy of Report #2019-P-32 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site.

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by B. Smith,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Municipality of Clarington, File: OPA 2019-003.

CARRIED

G) 2019-P-** OPA 2019-004 Jerrann Farms Public Meeting Report

A copy of Early Release Report #2019-P-** of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Jerrann Farms, was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by F. Puterbough,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services Ltd., on behalf of Jerrann Farms, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2019-004.

CARRIED

H) 2019-P-** OPA 2019-005 Daryl Phoenix Public Meeting Report

A copy of Early Release Report #2019-P-** of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Daryl Phoenix, was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Watpool,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services Ltd., on behalf of Daryl Phoenix, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2019-005.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

A) Report #2019-P-34 OPA 2019-001 Sewer Service Connections Outside the Urban Area Decision Meeting Report

A copy of Report #2019-P-34 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Durham Regional Official Plan Amendment #175 to permit water and sewer service connections in certain circumstances for properties abutting municipal services outside of the Urban Area was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

B) Report #2019-P-33 OPA 2019-002 Beverley Turf Farms Ltd. Decision Meeting Report

A copy of Report #2019-P-33 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Beverley Turf Farms Ltd., to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels, in the Township of Brock, was provided as Attachment #6 to the Agenda and received.

C) 2019-P-35 Envision Durham – Engagement and Outreach – Public Opinion Survey Results

A copy of Report #2019-P-35 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Engagement and Outreach – and Public Opinion Survey Summary were provided as Attachments #7 and 8 to the Agenda and received.

D) 2019-P-36 Envision Durham – Environment & Greenlands System Discussion Paper

A copy of Report #2019-P-36 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Environment and Greenlands System Discussion Paper and Attachment were provided as Attachments #9 and 10 to the Agenda and received. It was the consensus of the Committee to look at the Environment and Greenlands System Discussion Paper in greater detail to determine whether comments should be provided as a group.

7. Other Business

A) Potential Development on Sunnybrae Golf Course

K. Kilbourne advised that further to the inquiry at the June DAAC Meeting, Township of Scugog staff have advised that they have not received any applications for the potential development on Sunnybrae Golf Course.

B) Agriculture Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy

K. Kilbourne advised that the Agriculture Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy, "Growing Resilience: Durham Region Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy" was endorsed by Regional Council on June 26, 2019.

C) Notice of Commencement for the Durham York Energy Centre Throughput Increase

K. Kilbourne advised that a Public Notice regarding the Notice of Commencement for the Durham York Energy Centre Throughput Increase was released in July 2019. She advised that the proposal will allow the facility to increase the amount of waste from 140,000 tonnes to 160,000 tonnes. She advised that a copy of the Notice will be forwarded to the Committee.

D) Roundabout in Municipality of Clarington

K. Kilbourne advised that a roundabout will be installed at Concession 8 and 57 in the Municipality of Clarington. She advised that staff is seeking public input and more information on this will be forwarded to the Committee.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk