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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**March 10, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:33 PM

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair  
T. Barrie, Clarington  
N. Guthrie, Member at Large  
B. Howsam, Member at Large  
K. Kemp, Scugog  
P. MacArthur, Oshawa  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large  
H. Schillings, Whitby  
B. Smith, Uxbridge  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
B. Winter, Ajax

Also  
Present: G. Highet, Regional Councillor

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor  
K. Kennedy, Member at Large  
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair  
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair

#### **Staff**

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
D. Perkins, Planner, Planning Implementation, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
L. Trombino, Manager, Planning Implementation, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **1. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by T. Barrie,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on February 11, 2020 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. **Presentations**

### A) Lino Trombino, Regional Woodland Conservation Bylaw

L. Trombino, Manager, Planning Implementation, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Regional Tree By-Law. J. Rogers, Regional Tree By-law Enforcement Officer, attended by way of conference call.

L. Trombino stated that the Regional Tree By-law will be changed to the “Regional Woodland By-law” with the passing of the new proposed By-law. He advised that the purpose of the Bylaw is to protect forested areas and the natural environment. He advised that the Regional Official Plan establishes a target for woodland coverage of 30% of the Region’s land area and the Tree By-law applies to “woodlands” one hectare in size and greater.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Tree By-Law Purpose
- Permit Applications
  - Good Forestry Practices Permit Application
  - Clear Cutting Permit Application
- Regional Tree By-Law History
- Consultation
- Proposed Amendment Areas
  - Modernization
    - “Sensitive Natural Areas” definition will be further revised
    - Incorporated Federal and Provincial requirements for the protection of endangered species
    - Wetland protection in woodlands better reflect regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act
    - By-law will promote bio-diversity, and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation
    - Good Forestry Practices Permit fee will remain at \$50 (not to be paid by farmers)
    - Proposed Minor Clear Cutting Permit Fee will be \$500
    - Proposed Major Clear Cutting Permit Fee will be \$1,000
  - Clarification
    - Scope of analysis and screening of natural features and species will improve
    - Name change to “Regional Woodland By-law” more accurately reflects the purpose of the By-law
    - Updated definitions for clear and concise interpretation
    - New definitions for greater clarity
  - Process Improvements

- All applications to be circulated to conservation authorities and area municipalities
- Applicants required to notify the Region and area municipality before tree removal commence
- Good Forestry Practice permits not required for lands within wetlands regulated by Conservation Authorities
- Woodland Protection and By-law Enforcement
  - Fines will increase but will require final approval by the Province
  - Draft by-law proposes no clear cutting within settlement areas
  - By-law will mitigate the direct and indirect effects of injury/destruction of trees in woodlands
- Improved Transparency
  - By-law will clearly define and manage cumulative tree removal
  - Rationale for clear cutting will be required
- Future Consideration
  - Further review compensation for the removal of trees
- Next Steps and Conclusion
  - Education and literature campaign will be launched
  - Woodland Map to assist the public and area municipalities
  - Monitoring of tree cutting applications
  - Region's Tree By-law improves efficiency, clarity and provides better woodland protection and enforcement

L. Trombino provided a brief overview of the proposed By-law and amendments and advised that the proposed By-law will be presented to Planning and Economic Development Committee in April and for subsequent Council approval.

L. Trombino responded to questions with regards to whether new tree plantings are tracked; when trees are replaced, will they replace with a similar species; whether municipalities have their own by-law or will they have to comply with the regional by-law; what constitutes a "woodland"; and whether the definition of "tree" includes problematic species.

#### **4. Discussion Items**

- A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development
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S. Jibb advised that Allison Brown is the new Agriculture Program Coordinator.

B) DAAC Farm Tour

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D. Risebrough advised that the sub-committee met on March 3, 2020 and agreed on three topic areas as follows: conservation work done on the property; on-farm production (crop details etc.); and packing, processing and marketing of the products. He advised that the speaker has not yet been confirmed. D. Risebrough further advised that a site visit will be arranged for April and the usual infrastructure will be required. Discussion ensued with regards to the need to come up with an appropriate title for the Farm Tour.

C) OPA 2020-002 Clark Consulting Services Application

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A copy of the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted by Clark Consulting Services was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site and concerns were raised regarding the following:

- Odd shape doesn't seem logical and will make farming in that area (near the outbuildings) difficult;
- Lots should be made rectangular/square whenever possible;
- Why exclude the pond and not make use of the existing fence line;
- If the new homeowner fills in the ditch it could cause the pond to dry up;
- The dimensions of the outbuildings should be included in the application; and
- It makes more sense for the home-owner to have liability and responsibility for the pond.

It was the consensus of the Committee that their concerns be provided to staff.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Howsam,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Group to permit the severance of a dwelling and associated accessory buildings rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2020-002.

CARRIED

D) 2020-P-5 DAAC 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Workplan, Presentation to Planning and Economic Development Committee

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A copy of Report #2020-P-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Workplan was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Correspondence regarding Bill 156

A copy of the correspondence from Mitch Morawetz, President, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture, re: Bill 156 – Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019, dated February 19, 2020 was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda.

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of the correspondence from Mitch Morawetz, President, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture, re: Bill 156 – Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019.  
CARRIED

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to introduce a new Discussion Item [Item 4. F)] regarding OPA 2020-001.  
CARRIED

F) OPA 2020-001 Darmar Farms Inc. Application

A copy of the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted by Darmar Farms Inc. was provided.

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

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by D. Risebrough,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Darmar Farms Inc. to permit the severance of a dwelling and associated accessory buildings rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Township of Brock, File: OPA 2020-001.  
CARRIED

**5. Information Items**

There were no Information Items to consider.

**6. Other Business**

A) Tour of the Durham York Energy Centre

Further to the discussion had at the February 11, 2020 meeting, K. Allore-Engel inquired whether the Committee would prefer to tour the Durham York Energy Centre on September 8 or December 8. It was the consensus of the Committee to have the tour and off-site meeting on December 8, 2020 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

[Subsequent to the meeting, the April 14, 2020 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled].

**8. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk