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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Ryan, Chair
Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair
Councillor Highet
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Lee
Councillor Schummer
Councillor Yamada
Regional Chair Henry
*** all members of Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Barton
Councillor Dies attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Foster attended for part of the meeting
Councillor Smith
Councillor Wotten

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner
B. Anderson, Principal Planner
A. Bathe, Senior Planner
M. Blake, Senior Planner
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
J. Kelly, Principal Planner
C. Leitch, Principal Planner
G. Muller, Director of Planning
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning
B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism

K. Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
S. Salomone, Manager, Economic Development, Business Development
and Investment
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster
Development
M. Stevenson, Manager, Administrative Services
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Announcement

B. Bridgeman advised that Planning & Economic Development Department staff member Laurie Noland passed away on Saturday, February 27, 2021. He advised that Laurie was a Clerk-Steno and worked for the Region for 24 years, joining the Planning & Economic Development Department in 2003. He outlined some of her contributions to the Planning & Economic Development Department and the Region.

Chair Ryan requested that B. Bridgeman extend condolences to Laurie's family on behalf of the Committee.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Highet,
(8) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

6. Delegations

6.1 Dennis Croft, Chief Executive Officer, 1855 Technology Accelerator, re: Update on 1855 Activities and Successes

Dennis Croft, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the activities and successes of 1855. A copy of his presentation was distributed electronically to the Committee.

D. Croft advised that their mission is to support high-potential technology and innovative companies during the rapid revenue growth stages. He also advised

that 1855 was founded in November 2018 and their first operating year was 2019. He stated that they are a private/public partnership and a paid accelerator model. He explained that they focus on technology and innovation as the industry has high wealth generation, faster revenue growth, sustainability, and is industry agnostic.

D. Croft further advised that 1855 focuses on the growth stages including revenue attraction and customer growth. He also advised that 1855 offers a customized approach with a focus on investment funding attraction, executive advisory mentorship, business services specialization, innovation community navigation, and company office location. He displayed a list of 1855 feeders.

D. Croft outlined the economic impact of 1855. He noted that they have 17 member companies, have 3 industry tenants in their facility, and 144 jobs have been created. He also advised that their highest profile event is 1855 Masterclass and they have held 8 events with over 850 attendees.

D. Croft displayed a list of accelerator members and he provided information on IFTech. He stated that IFTech has been in Durham Region for over 10 years and has leveraged many different support structures for innovation companies. He also stated that IFTech has recently received its first customer worth \$4 million.

D. Croft outlined innovation community partners and he stated that they are the first and only accelerator company to have exclusive access to BDO Canada's 2021 VC Pitch Day.

D. Croft responded to questions from the Committee.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2021-EDT-1 at this time.

9.2 Reports

A) 1855 Technology Accelerator – 1855 Masterclass Event Series (2021-EDT-1)

Report #2021-EDT-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(9) That Report #2021-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Presentations

7.1 Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, Gary Muller, Director of Planning, and Colleen Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies, re: Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions

B. Bridgeman, G. Muller and C. Goodchild provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2021-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Highlights of their presentation included:

- Growth Opportunities and Challenges
- Growth Plan Forecasts
 - Comparing Durham Region Population Growth Forecast, 2016 to 2051
 - Durham Region Forecast Employment Scenarios, 2016 to 2051
- Uncertainty of Covid on Land Use Planning and Economic Development
- Economic Growth and Housing Choice
- Proposed Policy Directions Context and Overview
- Policy Review Approach
- Ongoing Engagement
- Consultation and Discussion Papers
- Envision Durham
- Proposed Policy Directions
 - Prosperous Economy
 - Healthy Communities
 - Supportive Infrastructure
 - Vibrant Urban System
 - Thriving Rural System
 - Protected Greenlands System
 - Connected Transportation System
- Online Survey
- Next Steps

Staff responded to questions with respect to the Growth Plan population and employment forecasts; planning for municipal infrastructure; completion of the Land Needs Assessment; consultation with area municipal staff; the potential impact on the Development Charges By-law; drivers for the proposed growth; and the Durham Region Competitiveness Study.

It was suggested that for future reports staff provide a memorandum in the Council Information Package with an explanation of the Growth Plan forecasts and actual population and employment growth.

8. Planning

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) CP Railway Traffic Information and Data (2021-P-6)

Report #2021-P-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to whether the CP Rail data included information on transportation of hazardous materials; the requirement to provide municipalities data on the transportation of dangerous goods; and proposed next steps.

It was requested that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Minister of Transport and Durham MPs and MPPs.

Moved by Councillor Schummer, Seconded by Councillor Lee,
(10) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council endorse the following draft resolution contained in Attachment #1 to Report #2021-P-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development requesting that CP Rail reconsider its decision to stop providing railway traffic information and data to the public:

Whereas sound is considered by the Environmental Protection Act to be a contaminant which causes negative effects on human health;

Whereas the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) states that planning for land uses in the vicinity of rail facilities should be undertaken in a manner that ensures that rail facilities and sensitive land uses are appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from each other;

Whereas the PPS also directs municipalities to avoid land use patterns and development which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns;

Whereas, Environmental Noise Assessment Studies, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks guidelines require accurate and up-to-date data to accurately assess the impacts of railway noise on new development and identify appropriate mitigation measures;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Region of Durham is requesting that CP Rail reconsider its decision to cease providing railway traffic information to the noise consultants; and

That a copy of this motion be forwarded to CP Rail; the area municipalities; the Minister of Transport; Durham MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO); and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

CARRIED

B) Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions (2021-P-7)

Report #2021-P-7 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to proposed policies on downtowns; inclusionary zoning; Figure 11: Potential Employment Area Designation Refinements; Figure 15: Durham's Greenlands System; proposed consultation with landowners; the employment area conversion process; the Significant Woodlands Study; the Land Needs Assessment process and settlement area boundary expansion considerations; the proposed policy direction to prohibit large-scale commercial renewable energy facilities in Prime Agricultural Areas; the possibility of reducing minimum lot sizes for Hamlets in Rural Settlements; the policy for severance of non-abutting surplus farm dwellings; the process for allocating population and employment forecasts to area municipalities; the proposal to include the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station within the Urban Area Boundary; and the Land Needs Assessment process and evaluation of Employment Area conversion requests.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Schummer,
(11) That Report #2021-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Economic Development

9.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

9.2 Reports

A) 1855 Technology Accelerator – 1855 Masterclass Event Series (2021-EDT-1)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 3 of these minutes.

10. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

11. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

12. Other Business

12.1 Committee Appointments

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

- A) That Councillor Hight be appointed to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee; and
- B) That Councillor Hight be appointed to the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.

CARRIED

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

- A) That Councillor Joe Neal be appointed as an alternate to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee; and
- B) That Councillor Yamada be appointed as an alternate to the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(14) That we recommend to Council:

That Councillor Lee be appointed to the Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation.

CARRIED

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Joe Neal,
(15) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM

Respectfully submitted,

D. Ryan, Chair

T. Fraser, Committee Clerk