

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 9, 2021

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:37 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
T. Barrie, Clarington
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
G. Highet, Regional Councillor
B. Howsam, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
B. Smith, Uxbridge
B. Winter, Ajax

***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
G. Taylor, Pickering, Vice-Chair
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator, Department of Planning and Economic Development
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on October 12, 2021 be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentation

A) Janet Horner, Executive Director, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance – Event Barn Position Paper

Janet Horner, Executive Director, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Event Barn Position Paper.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Event Barns
- Introduction
- Importance of Farmland Preservation
- Family Farming & On-Farm Diversification
- Event Barn Examples in the Golden Horseshoe
- Event Barn Requirements
- Position on Event Barns
- Lessons Learned from Stonewall Estates
- Recommendations and Next Steps
- Conclusion

J. Horner advised that the draft Event Barn Position Paper was endorsed by the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance in September 2021 and it was recommended that it be circulated to the Agricultural Advisory Committees for comment. She stated that she would like to receive any comments by January as the Alliance is scheduled to meet in January 2022 to review the comments received and endorse the Paper.

J. Horner advised that the Golden Horseshoe is the most densely populated and industrialized area in Canada. She stated that prime agricultural lands are a finite, limited resource and agricultural uses are to remain the principal use in prime agricultural areas. She stated that on-farm diversification includes implementing value added farming practices as well as new business on farmlands which may not be directly related to agriculture. Event barns are one example of on-farm diversification where barns are transformed into spaces to host weddings, parties and other social events. She advised that the Golden Horseshoe has many event barns and provided a detailed overview of 3 legal event barns in the Golden Horseshoe.

J. Horner provided an overview of the event barn requirements and stated that the following criteria must be met for on-farm diversified uses: located on a farm; secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property; limited in area; includes but not limited to home occupations, home industries, agri-tourism uses and uses that produce value-added agricultural products; and shall be compatible with, and shall not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations. She advised that the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance' position on Event Barns is that they should only be permitted if they can meet all the current government requirements and follow the OMAFRA Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas; and it is unlikely that event barns should be established today. She stated the reasons behind the GHFFA's position are as follows: must be secondary to the farm; must have appropriate size and scale; and, expensive and timely.

J. Horner responded to questions with regards to properties with large enough spaces and how to differentiate that from being an event facility and an event barn; and what is driving the popularity of event barns.

Z. Cohoon requested committee members review the Event Barn Position Paper and provide feedback at the next committee meeting.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The Ontario Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs visited Durham Region on October 29th. The event included a funding announcement in Uxbridge; a roundtable with farmers of Uxbridge; primary producers; a tour of Hy-Hope Farms, Whitby and the Centre for Food at Durham College. S. Jibb and A. Brown also provided a presentation to the Minister on some of the economic development priorities for the agri-food industry
- Staff is working with Planning Department staff on the Agriculture System Mapping approach with regards to the agri-food network
- The Durham Farm Connections Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2021 and the Durham Farm Fresh Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2021

A. Brown provided the following update:

- Staff is hosting a workshop on November 12, 2021 on A Guide to Starting a Home-Based Food Business
- Staff is working on a Succession Planning Workshop and more details will be provided at another time

B) 2022 DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference

A copy of the draft 2022 DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference were provided as Attachments #2 and #3 to the Agenda.

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to
Regional Council:

That the Draft 2022 Workplan of the Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee, as proposed, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by B. Smith,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to
Regional Council:

That the Draft Terms of Reference for the Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee, as proposed, be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

A) Report #2021-INFO-109 – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, 2021
Virtual Farm Tour

A copy of Information Report #2021-INFO-109 of the Commissioner of
Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Agricultural
Advisory Committee, 2021 Virtual Farm Tour, was provided as a link to the
Agenda and received.

B) Report #2021-P-24 – Decision Meeting Report – Grainboys Holdings Inc. –
OPA 2021-004

A copy of Report #2021-P-24 of the Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development regarding the Application to Amend the Durham
Regional Official Plan, submitted by Kyle Petrovich on behalf of Grainboys
Holdings Inc. to permit the development of a grain processing facility in the
Township of Uxbridge, was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

C) Durham Food Policy System Comment Request

With regards to the Durham Food Policy Council, Durham Food System
Report Card presented to the committee on October 12, 2021, M. Scott
requested that committee members forward any comments to him by email.

D) Evergreen Environmental File – 1515 Thornton Road, Oshawa

With regards to H. Schilling's request at the October 12, 2021 meeting regarding concerns with a property at Raglan Road and Harmony Road North being used for the dumping of yard waste, M. Scott advised that the Region commented on an EBR posting but the matter is within the City of Oshawa's purview. M. Scott confirmed that the contact information for the Planner will be forwarded to H. Schillings.

7. Other Business

A) Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Bridgebrook Corp. to redesignate lands from Special Study Area #6 to Living Areas to facilitate the development of a 588-unit plan of subdivision, in the Township of Uxbridge, File: OPA 2021-005 (2021-P-20)

M. Scott advised that this Application was not circulated to the committee as the application was within the urban boundary. He advised that the Applicant has applied to change the designation from a special study area to living areas in the Official Plan contingent on servicing.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Application not being supported by the Township of Uxbridge; as well as the property being located within the Whitelands of Uxbridge, still actively farmed and very opposed to by the local community.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council