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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 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 Grant  
Councillor Highet  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Yamada  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\*all members of Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Collier  
Councillor Crawford  
Councillor Dies  
Councillor Smith attended for part of the meeting  
Councillor Wotten

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
S. Baldie Jagpat, Manager, Administrative Services  
A. Bathe, Senior Planner  
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services  
A. Brown, Program Specialist, Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
V. Chanthavong, Planner  
P. Frizado, Director, Broadband Services  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies  
L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
G. Muller, Director of Planning  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning

B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism  
K. Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services  
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster  
Development  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative 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. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
(20) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

- 4.1 Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Maltheb Farms 2000 Ltd., to permit the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm properties, in the Township of Scugog, File: OPA 2021-008 (2022-P-1)
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The Chair advised that this portion of the Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting constitutes the Statutory Public Information meeting under the Planning Act for a proposed amendment to the Durham Regional Official Plan. He also advised that notice of the public meeting was advertised in the applicable newspaper and mailed to landowners and residents within 120 metres of the subject property. He noted that it is important that anyone who may have an interest in this matter make a submission prior to Regional Council making a decision.

A) Presentation

V. Chanthavong, Planner, Planning Division, provided a presentation outlining the details of Report #2022-P-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. She advised that an application has been submitted by Clark Consulting Services on behalf of Maltheb Farms 2000 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 Scugog. The subject site is located west of the Hamlet of Nestleton Station and adjacent to the northeast quadrant of Highway 7A and Regional Road 57. She provided an overview of the application and land use policy considerations. She also advised that the application has

been circulated to relevant agencies and to date comments have been received from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and Regional Works Department advising they have no objections. One resident has also expressed an interest in the application.

The Chair asked if there were any persons in attendance who wished to make a submission or ask any questions.

B) Delegations

1. Hugh Stewart, Clark Consulting Services

Hugh Stewart, participating electronically, appeared with respect to the application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted on behalf of Maltheb Farms Limited. He advised that he is the applicants' agent and was present to answer any questions on Report #2022-P-1.

C) Report

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Highet,

(21) A) That Report #2022-P-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information; and

B) That all submissions received be referred to the Planning Division for consideration.

CARRIED

5. **Delegations**

5.1 Sherry Colbourne, President & CEO, Spark Centre, re: Spark Centre Annual Report (2022-EDT-5)

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S. Colbourne, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee to provide the Spark Centre Annual Update.

S. Colbourne advised that fiscal 2021 was a very good year for the Spark Centre and she stated that special initiatives in 2021 included the Digital Main Street Program, ShopDurham and Project Green, and new initiatives included the Innovation Economy Council. She provided an overview of the Spark Centre annual metrics, and event and marketing statistics. She also advised that their magazine, The Spark, was retrofitted during 2021. She noted that the magazine has a readership of about 30,000.

S. Colbourne further advised that during 2021 the Spark Centre established a for-profit subsidiary, Synergy Lab Inc. She stated that the Spark Centre Team grew significantly in 2021 to 26 employees. She also advised that they have expanded their Advisory Team and expanded their Board of Directors.

S. Colbourne also advised in 2021 they laid the foundation for building out the Eastern Ontario Innovation Corridor and they joined forces with Launch Lab, Queen's University and PARO as charter founders. She added that on February 28, 2022, they submitted a proposal to the Federal government for funding.

S. Colbourne concluded by advising that they have been working on a Start-Up Visa Program and building out their globalization program, which was the catalyst for their for-profit subsidiary, Synergy Lab Inc.

S. Colbourne responded to questions from the Committee.

## **6. Presentations**

### **6.1 Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, re: Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System (2022-P-7)**

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A. Bathe provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2022-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Highlights of her presentation included:

- Provincial Policy Requirements
- Why Are Natural Heritage Systems Important?
- Approach to Identifying the Proposed Regional Natural Heritage System
  - Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas
  - Greenbelt Natural Heritage System
  - Growth Plan Natural Heritage System
  - Area Municipal Natural Heritage Systems and Updates Features Mapping
  - Recap
- Enhancement Opportunity Areas
- Implementation
- Engagement Plan
- Regional Natural Heritage System Map Viewer

Staff responded to questions with respect to the safeguards in place for agricultural and natural heritage land in the greenbelt; intensification and expansion needs; how the draft mapping relates to a specific property in the Municipality of Clarington; local official plan designations; proposed Enhancement Opportunity Areas; whether Enhancement Opportunity Areas will be part of the Natural Heritage System; public feedback expectations; relationship to the Land Needs Assessment; the Carruthers Creek Headwaters; the potential impact on minor adjustments to the settlement area boundary; expansion of the Natural Heritage System; Minister Zoning Orders; the February delegation on behalf of the Northeast Pickering Landowners Group; whether the draft Natural Heritage System aligns with the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan; and whether the Region has considered how any changes will be addressed.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2022-P-7 at this time.

## 7.2 Reports

### A) Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System (2022-P-7)

Report #2022-P-7 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions with respect to the communications plan for the draft Regional Natural Heritage System (NHS), and the availability of the online map viewer.

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(22) That we recommend to Council:

That Report #2022-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED AS AMENDED LATER IN THE  
MEETING  
(See Following Motions)

Moved by Councillor Joe Neal, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
(23) That the foregoing main motion (22) of Councillors Lee and Kerr be amended by adding the following new Part B):

- B) That notice of the draft Regional Natural Heritage System (NHS) be placed in all newspapers, including the Orono Weekly Times and Durham Region This Week newspapers.

CARRIED

The main motion (22) of Councillors Lee and Kerr was then put to a vote and CARRIED AS AMENDED.

## 6. **Presentations**

### 6.2 Stacey Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development, re: Agri-Food Workforce Development – Video Series (2022-EDT-4)

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S. Jibb advised that the Economic Development and Tourism Division has completed an agri-food workforce video series. She explained that the agri-food sector is a top economic driver for the Region, and she also advised that it is estimated the need for food globally will more than double by the year 2050 and that the agri-food industry in Canada will face the prospect of over \$2 billion in lost revenue due to labour shortages. She stated that to address some of these

challenges, an agri-food career video series was developed to raise awareness and build interest in the variety and diversity of career opportunities available in the agri-food industry in the Region.

A. Brown advised that a series of eight videos were developed. She also advised that the videos will be featured in grade 10 Civics and Careers classes in local school boards. She added that staff intend to follow-up with the school boards to gather feedback and provide additional support as needed.

A video with Rob Alexander, General Manager, Natures Bounty, was played for the Committee.

Staff responded to questions with respect to availability of the videos; usage by school boards; and sectors included.

It was noted that the videos are available on the [Regional Website](https://www.durham.ca/en/economic-development/industries/agriculture-and-food-workforce-development.aspx#Agri-Food-Sector-Career-Videos) (<https://www.durham.ca/en/economic-development/industries/agriculture-and-food-workforce-development.aspx#Agri-Food-Sector-Career-Videos>).

## **7. Planning**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

There were no communications to consider.

### **7.2 Reports**

#### **A) Envision Durham – Identifying a Regional Natural Heritage System (2022-P-7)**

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 5 of these minutes.

## **8. Economic Development**

### **8.1 Correspondence**

There were no communications to consider.

### **8.2 Reports**

#### **A) Agri-Food Workforce Development – Video Series (2022-EDT-4)**

Report #2022-EDT-4 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Hight, Seconded by Councillor Grant,  
(24) That Report #2022-EDT-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report (2022-EDT-5)

Report #2022-EDT-5 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,  
(25) That Report #2022-EDT-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

C) Response to Correspondence from the City of Oshawa Council re: "Process to Establish the City of Oshawa including the lands in Oshawa operated by the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority as a Foreign Trade Zone" (2022-EDT-6)

Report #2022-EDT-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
(26) That Report #2022-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
(27) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Ryan, Chair

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T. Fraser, Committee Clerk