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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 8, 2022

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 in Meeting Room 1A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:36 PM. 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
K. Kemp, Scugog
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
G. Taylor, Pickering attended the meeting at 7:54 PM
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax attended the meeting at 7:55 PM
***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Hight, Regional Councillor
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development
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 K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Lyndsay Cartwright, Senior Research Analyst, Toronto Region Conservation Authority, re: Identification of Areas Meeting Criteria for Significant Wildlife Habitat in TRCA's Jurisdiction

Lyndsay Cartwright, Senior Research Analyst, Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to Identification of Areas Meeting Criteria for Significant Wildlife Habitat in TRCA's Jurisdiction.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Context – A Changing Landscape
- Context – Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) Project
- Context – Agriculture
- What is Significant Wildlife Habitat?
- Background
- Objective
- Draft Mapping
- Example – Open Country Bird Breeding Habitat
- Example – Shrub/Early Successional Bird Breeding Habitat
- All Areas Meeting Criteria for SWH
- Summary / Next Steps

L. Cartwright stated that the project is not intended to replace any existing municipal Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) information but to provide supplemental information to fill gaps and provide updated information. She also stated that the project is meant to identify opportunities and facilitate partnerships with willing landowners.

L. Cartwright advised that Provincial guidance on identified areas that meet criteria for SWH have been provided in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide from 2000, the Mitigation Support Tool from 2014, and Criteria Schedules from 2015. She stated that the goal of the project was to follow Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry criteria and align with methods outlined in the Peel Caledon study as well as work done by Credit Valley Conservation.

L. Cartwright provided a brief overview for open country bird breeding habitat and shrub/early successional bird breeding habitat and stated that the areas meeting criteria for SWH is 17% of the TRCA jurisdiction and 93% is included within the TRCA's regional target Natural Heritage System.

L. Cartwright responded to questions with regards to criteria within the Build More Homes Faster Act; interconnected ecosystems and creating pathways for wildlife management in the layers; and how urban expansion along whitebelt lands are going to be affected by the type of layer.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Agri Food Processing Business Retention and Expansion project will begin in the new year and the goal for the project is to get a better understanding of the food processors that exist in Durham Region, what their challenges and opportunities are, with an end goal of increasing food processing capacity in Durham Region and utilization of local food products grown in Durham Region and surrounding areas.
- She will be presenting at the Royal Winter Fair with Durham College on Friday, November 11, 2022 on agricultural careers.
- She has been meeting with school boards to push agriculture content to the specialist high skills major students and will be putting together modules for the students to complete.
- The Barrett Centre of Innovation in Sustainable Urban Agriculture announced their interim site will be located in Ajax.
- Working on completing the final graphic for the Growing Agri Food Durham plan with the updated 2021 census data.

B) 2022 DAAC Farm Tour Recap

D. Risebrough advised that Information Report #2022-INFO-83 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Farm Tour was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda. He provided a brief summary of the highlights from the farm tour.

C) Agriculture 101 Training

S. Jibb advised that they have been brainstorming ideas to add Agricultural Training to the workplan for the coming year to help raise agriculture awareness and bring attention to the contribution it makes to the community. She asked

members of the Committee if they would be interested in organizing training for Regional Council.

It was the consensus of the Committee that an Agricultural Training Sub-Committee be formed consisting of Z. Cohoon, T. Barrie, K. Kemp and D. Risebrough.

D) Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- Bill 23 was introduced in the legislature on October 25, 2022 and introduced changes to the land use planning system in Ontario through amendments to the Planning Act, Development Charges Act and other legislation that will have significant impact on Durham Region.
- The CAO will be sending comments on behalf of Durham Region to the Province which will be placed on the Council Information Package and will be shared with the Committee when it is released. At this time, there are no expected changes to how DAAC operates in light of Bill 23.

E) ROPA 2022-004 – Wechsel Farms

A copy of Early Release Report #2022-P-** of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Public Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services, on behalf of Wechsel Farms, 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 Brock, File: OPA 2022-004 was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

S. Jibb advised that there will be a public meeting for application ROPA 2022-004 at the December 6, 2022 Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting. She provided a brief overview of the Application and discussion ensued regarding the subject site.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee has no objections to
the severance of land.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

A) DAAC Membership Applications

S. Jibb advised that the membership applications to apply for the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee for the next term of Council is still open and will continue to accept applications until all vacancies are filled. She also advised that

applications will be circulated to area municipalities for their consideration by November 21st to submit their Council nominations by January 25, 2023 and will be brought forward to Regional Council in March 2023.

B) Farm Tour Information Report

Information Report #2022-INFO-83 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2022 Farm Tour was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) Guidelines on Permitted Uses as a Tool to Achieve Farmland Protection, Farm Diversification and Economic Benefits

S. Jibb advised that the Best Practices for On-Farm Diversified Uses in Ontario's Agricultural Areas report by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and the University of Guelph was released. She stated that the report has six best practice tools and recommendations. A link to the report will be provided the Committee members following the meeting. S. Jibb advised there will be a presentation on the final report on December 1, 2022 and encouraged Committee members to sign up for the webinar. She also advised there will be a report going on the Council Information Package and will be shared with the Committee when it is released.

B) Sollio Agriculture

Z. Cohoon stated that the Sollio Cooperative Group (Sollio) is divesting of many of their assets and there are unofficial report that they will not longer be operating the grain terminal at the Port of Oshawa. He suggested having the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) provide an update to the Committee. S. Jibb will reach out to invite HOPA representatives to a future meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk