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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 14, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:31 PM.

1. Roll Call

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

Absent: B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
S. Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Discussion Items

A) Agriculture 101 Training

A. De Vos advised that Zac Cohoon will be presenting the Agriculture 101 Training to Regional Council on March 1, 2023. She provided a brief overview of the presentation to Committee members.

Discussion ensued with regards to ensuring all photographs in the presentation have been taken within Durham Region and highlighting the obstacles to diversifying farms.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The Growing Agri Food Durham Plan that was endorsed in June 2022 now has a design version and there will be a news release coming to promote the plan and bring more awareness to support the Agri Food industry.
- There is a new five-year economic development plan supporting North Durham that will be released shortly.

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- Currently working on the business toolkit draft which will include business case studies as examples and business friendly language.
- There is currently an intake open for Rural Economic Development funding from the province. There is an application being submitted for Brock Township for support in updating their zoning by-law. There is another application being submitted to hire a joint coordinator for Durham Farm Fresh and Durham Farm Connections to help pool resources and split hours between both groups. The Committee is being asked for a letter of support for the two applications.

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,

That the Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee supports providing letters of support for the application for a zoning by-law update in the Township of Brock and for the hiring of a Joint Coordinator for the Rural Economic Development Funding application.

CARRIED

C) Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector Resolution Follow Up

S. Jibb advised that the resolution passed at the January 17, 2023 DAAC meeting was endorsed by the Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 7, 2023 and will be presented to Regional Council on March 1, 2023. She also advised she would provide an update at the next meeting.

D) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report

Z. Cohoon provided the following update:

- The host site will be Carncroft Farm and the second site will be Swain Beef and the potential date is September 19, 2023.
- The discussion at the host site will focus on the lamb barn and how they have grown, what they do, the aspect of Trillium Land, and their marketing.
- There will be a 2-mile wagon ride between farms or potentially through the fields depending on the crops
- The discussion at the second site will focus on the beef feed lot, cash crop and spraying operation. They will be putting in a new hydraulic chute and will be demonstrating putting cattle through the chute and will provide a demonstration on the feed lot industry, pasturing and direct consumer sales of beef.
- Currently finalizing details on the caterer, speakers for lunch and people movers. A meeting will be set up in the spring to see the site and "save the dates" will be sent out once the date has been finalized.

Discussion ensued with regards to the topic and potential guest speakers during lunch.

E) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023-2026 Term Membership Update

M. Scott advised that he is still waiting for Ajax, Uxbridge, and Clarington to provide their appointed citizen representative and staff will then begin the process of selecting at large members. He also advised the goal is to have the report with the committee appointments considered at the April Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting.

F) Draft Regional Official Plan Discussion

Early Release Report #2023-P-** of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Envision Durham – Release of the Draft New Regional Official Plan, File: D12-01 was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that the commenting deadline for the Draft New Regional Official Plan is April 3, 2023 and there will be an public open house on March 6 and 7, 2023.

M. Scott suggested committee members review the rural and agricultural system policies. Major changes include the addition of an agricultural system section, the implementation of provincial agricultural system policies, and the on-farm diversified uses policies which are now in line with provincial policies. He advised that next steps would be for the Committee to submit any comments and he can answer any questions regarding specific parcels of land.

Discussion ensued with regards to any potential greenbelt adjustments and settlement area boundary expansions.

5. Information Items

A) Gates Open 2022: Final Your Flavour

Report #2023-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Gates Open 2022: Find Your Flavour was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

B) Best Practices for On-Farm Diversified Use

Report #2023-EDT-3 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Best Practices for On-Farm Diversified Use was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

S. Jibb advised that the report is an overview of research completed by the University of Guelph around best practices that municipalities can implement to support on-farm diversified uses in their municipalities.

6. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk