

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 16, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:03 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Introduction of the new Planning and Economic Development Committee Representatives

This item was deferred until the March 23, 2023 DECAC meeting.

2. Roll Call

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
S. Clearwater, Whitby
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, First Vice-Chair
R. Dickinson, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa, Second Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:54 PM
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:14 PM
M. Nasir, Ajax
S. Panchal, Youth Member
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: A. Abu-Rayash, Member at Large
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
Councillor Shahid
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large
B. Shipp, Member at Large

Staff

Present: N. Halim, Policy Advisor, CAO's Office
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by K. Lui,
That the agenda for the February 16, 2023 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That the minutes of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee
meeting held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED AS AMENDED
(See Following Motion)

S. Clearwater asked that the January 19, 2023 DECAC minutes be amended on page 5 under Item 8. B) Investing in the Future of Ontario's Greenbelt: A Conservation Finance Blueprint for Southern Ontario, Smart Prosperity Institute, December 2022, to add a third paragraph that states: "The conclusion, however, was that since "direct investing in natural assets is a relatively new concept in Canada", ... "connecting investment in nature to discreet, measurable economic value remains a challenge at the project level which can increase the uncertainty and risk of pursuing conservation finance risks". Another "challenge when seeking to advance conservation finance" is that parks, conservation areas and other natural areas will be expected to generate significant revenues from fees, levies and permits for accessing these areas." (Referenced on Page 21). Therefore, this is not being considered as an option to raise funds to finance conservation projects at this time (Referenced on Page 69)".

Discussion ensued regarding amending minutes. Staff advised that minutes are prepared without note or comment as per the Municipal Act and advised of the procedure to amend the minutes.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by K. Lui,
That page 5 of the January 19, 2023 minutes, under Item 8. B) Investing in the Future of Ontario's Greenbelt: A Conservation Finance Blueprint for Southern Ontario, Smart Prosperity Institute, December 2022, be amended to add a third paragraph as follows:

"The conclusion, however, was that since "direct investing in natural assets is a relatively new concept in Canada", ... "connecting investment in nature to discreet, measurable economic value remains a challenge at the project level which can increase the uncertainty and risk of pursuing conservation finance risks". Another "challenge when seeking to advance conservation finance" is that parks, conservation areas and other natural areas will be expected to generate significant revenues from fees, levies and permits for accessing these areas." (Referenced on Page 21). Therefore, this is not being considered as an option to raise funds to finance conservation projects at this time (Referenced on Page 69)".

CARRIED

6. Delegation

A) Trevor McCaw and Darryl McCaw, Co-Founders, Renewal Squared

Trevor McCaw and Darryl McCaw appeared before the Committee regarding Renewal Squared.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- The Team
- Textiles/Clothing Recycling is a Real Problem
- Community Based Collections Can Solve the Problem
 - Renewal Squared Can Work with Durham to Make This Happen
 - The Problem is Getting Worse and Not Going Away
- Success Close to Home – Case Study
- Renewal Squared Textile Collection Trailers

T. McCaw responded to questions from the Committee regarding how Renewal Squared earns its revenue by diverting the collected clothing back into the community; how the collection bin locations are chosen, and whether collection bins would be placed in rural communities; whether they work with the local communities or not-for-profit organizations where there may already be a collection bin present; increasing the education and social media presence of Renewal Squared; and how many collection bins are currently in the community.

T. McCaw advised that he would provide the committee with their contact information so that committee members could share that information with their affiliate local environmental groups.

7. Presentation

A) Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure Program, Nayel Halim, Durham Sustainability Office

Nayel Halim, Policy Advisor, Durham Sustainability Office provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding building an energy benchmarking and disclosure program.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham's Commitment to Climate Action
- Durham's Low Carbon Pathway
 - Reduce, Improve, and Switch
- What is Building Energy Benchmarking
- Why is it Important?
- Benchmarking Programs in North America
- The Ontario Benchmarking Landscape
- Energy Benchmarking Program Objectives
 - Increase Compliance

- Encourage Voluntary Benchmarking
- What is the Program Aiming to do?
- Who Could Participate in the Program?
- Takeaways
- Value of a Benchmarking Program
- How Will the Program Work for Commercial Participants?
- Benchmarking Program Implementation & Features
- Begins with a Building Challenge
- Setup Account and Get Data Uploaded
- Demonstrate Community Leadership
- Date Request for the Building Challenge
- Ontario Benchmarking Help Centre

N. Halim responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether apartment owners would need to submit the paperwork themselves or would they need to hire a consultant to complete the paperwork; the information collected through the energy benchmarking program being used for planning purposes; and whether it could help determine whether certain growth or planning approvals are given.

Discussion ensued regarding whether there is an opportunity to consider energy benchmarking as a category for the Durham Environment and Climate Change Committee (DECAC) Environmental Achievement awards and acknowledge the building managers who perform the best.

8. Items for Discussion

A) Update on Presentation of 2022 Workplan to the Planning & Economic Development Committee

A. Luqman thanked G. Carpentier for presenting the DEAC's 2022 Workplan to the Planning & Economic Development Committee on February 7, 2023 as it was deferred from the January 10, 2023 Planning & Economic Development Committee due to technical difficulties.

B) Spring Pollinator Seed Distribution Project Update and Call for Volunteers

A. Luqman advised that she has started the procurement process with respect to the seeds/materials and asked if anyone from the Committee was interested in volunteering. She advised that she will try to procure more seeds this year as they ran out very quickly last year.

A. Luqman advised that she would email the Committee the dates and times of the Works Compost Give-Away events throughout the Region of Durham which begin in late April and continue into late May. She also advised that this would be a good opportunity for high school students to obtain their required 40 hours of volunteering through this project.

9. For Information

- A) Pathways to Living Cities: A Framework to Help Practitioners Advance Equitable, Abundant, and Thriving Green Infrastructure in Cities Across Canada, Green Communities Canada, and the University of Toronto
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A copy of Pathways to Living Cities: A framework to help practitioners advance equitable, abundant, and thriving green Infrastructure in cities across Canada, Green Communities Canada, and the University of Toronto, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the following statement referenced on page 10, “Canada is warming at twice the global average”, and what the reasons for that could be.

- B) Commissioner’s Report #2023-COW-1: Request for Funding from the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority for the Acquisition of Land Adjacent to the Long Sault Conservation Area in the Municipality of Clarington
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A copy of Report #2023-COW-1 of the Commissioner of Finance and the Commissioner Planning & Economic Development was received.

- C) Information Report #2023-INFO-05: 2022 Source Water Protection Annual Report
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A copy of Report #2023-INFO-05 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

S. Clearwater raised concerns regarding the number of significant drinking water threats (SDWTs) identified in the following three annual reports and how they managed to resolve most of them:

- 1) Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Region (14 SDWTs, all resolved)
- 2) South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region (85 SDWTs, increased to 102, 75 resolved)
- 3) Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region (207 SDWT’s, increased to 212, all resolved)

S. Clearwater advised that she would follow-up with staff to see if there is an explanation on how they addressed the SDWTs, and specifically how they managed to get the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region SDWTs to 0 from 212, and report back to the Committee.

- D) Information Report #2023-INFO-09: Implementation of the Federal Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation
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A copy of Report #2023-INFO-09 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

E) Minutes of the January 17th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the January 17, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by K. Murray,
That Information Items 9. A) to E) inclusive, be received for information.
CARRIED

10. Other Business

A) Appointment of New Members to DECAC

A. Luqman clarified the appointment process for the formation of the new DECAC (including the appointments made by the local area municipalities), and that a report recommending all members would be presented to the Planning & Economic Development Committee and subsequently Council for approval.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by K. Murray,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk