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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 11, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 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
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith*, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

Staff

Present: 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
R. Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Works Department
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 H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Durham Region Works Department – Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects

Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Durham Region Works Department,
provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to an Update on Regional
Roads and Infrastructure Projects.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview of Presentation
- Budget Overview Roads & Infrastructure
- 2022 Accomplishments
 - Service Improvements
 - Vision Zero (Works Measures)
 - Awards and Achievements
- 2023 Proposed Expenditures & Financing
- 202 Strategic Highlights
- 2023 Roads Capital Planning Framework
- Rehabilitation Projects
- 2023 Roads Projects
- Proposed 2023 Structures Replacement/Rehabilitation Projects
- Proposed 2023 Traffic Programs
- Proposed 2023 Vision Zero Program
- Proposed 2023 ICIP BRT Projects
- 2023 Business Plans and Budgets
- Scope Flattening for Road Safety Improvements
- Excess Soils Filling Sites Adjacent to the Road
- Excess Soils to Fill a Low Area to Improve Farming
- Roundabouts – More Coming to Durham
- Road Standards
- More Road Standard Improvements

R. Trewin responded to questions with regards to the definition of community
safety zone; tickets being issued through Vision Zero; how development charges

are utilized; the paving of the shoulders of roads; excess soil filling site project details; salt content in soil due winter maintenance of roads; whether roundabouts are a viable option; how much of farm driveways are being paved; and how the electric vehicle charging stations work.

Discussion ensued with regards to speed limit changes on regional roads; construction plans for Regional Road 13, Concession Road 7, Winchester Road (Regional Road 3), and the Burketon CPR Bridge in Clarington; and re-landscaping farms.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb advised there is no rural and agricultural economic development update at this time.

B) Avian Influenza and Backyard Chickens

S. Jibb advised that Durham Region has posted information on avian influenza on its website. She also advised there have been discussions around backyard chicken by-laws and that the City of Pickering recently passed a resolution directing staff to investigate implementing a back-yard chicken by law.

S. Jibb advised that staff from the City of Pickering will be attending a future meeting to seek the Committee's input on this matter.

C) ROPA 2023-003 – Gowanlea Ltd., Township of Brock

M. Scott advised that an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Michael Smith Planning Consultants Development Coordinators Ltd., on behalf of Gowanlea 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 Brock, File: OPA 2023-003, was received.

M. Scott advised that the applicant purchased the subject site in 2022 and the lands are used for crop rotation. He also advised that it is a private farm business that owns 22 agricultural properties totalling 833 hectares in the Township of Brock. He added that the house located on the subject site is not utilized by farm employees and is surplus to the farm operation.

M. Scott provided a brief overview of the application and discussion ensued regarding the subject site.

Moved by T. Barrie, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee has no objection to the severance of land.

CARRIED

D) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report

D. Risebrough advised there is no 2023 farm tour sub-committee report update at this time.

6. Information Items

A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Membership Appointments

Report #2023-P-11 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Membership Appointments was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

B) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector

Correspondence to The Honourable Justin Trudeau with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Impacts on Food Prices and Opportunities for Advocacy to Improve Financial Viability for the Agri-food Sector was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

C) Motion Regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Correspondence to The Honourable Justin Trudeau with regards to Motion Regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) Review of Proposed Policies Adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to Form a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument

M. Scott advised that on April 6, 2023, the Province of Ontario released a review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument and that the proposal is open for consultation and comment until June 5, 2023.

Discussion ensued with regards to retirement homes on farms; additional residences being allowed on properties; the rules for water and septic on the properties; changes to policies governing the expansion of municipal urban boundaries; and mapping of prime agricultural lands in Ontario.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk