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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:05 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Baszyk, Brock
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington
M. Nasir, Ajax
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
Councillor Shahid
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: M. Barta, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Kawalec, Program Coordinator, Climate Change, CAO's Office
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, CAO's Office
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That the agenda for the May 18, 2023 Durham Environment and Climate
Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.
CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Presentation

A) DECAC Member Orientation, Aneesah Luqman, Senior Planner

Aneesah Luqman, Senior Planner, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Member Orientation.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Roadmap
- Provincial Planning Context
- Responsibilities of Regional Planning
- Provincial Legislation/Plans
- Roles
- Overview of DECAC
- Past and Current Projects
- Membership Composition
 - Members
- Term of Membership and Officers
- Role of Committee Chair
- Terms of Reference
- Terms of Reference & Annual Workplan
- Reporting Relationship
- Procedures and Housekeeping
 - Meetings and Quorum
 - Agendas and Minutes
 - Committee Resolutions and Procedures
 - Other Matters

A. Luqman provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Regional planning and the provincial planning context. She also provided an overview of DECAC and its role to provide advice to the Region on environmental planning matters.

A. Luqman provided further details regarding the terms of reference, annual workplan, conflict of interest, expense claims, agenda distribution, quorum, and attendance.

A. Luqman responded to a question from the Committee regarding whether a special DECAC meeting would be called if quorum for a regular DECAC meeting was not obtained.

6. Items for Action/Discussion

A) Member Introductions

A. Luqman, Senior Planner, welcomed the new and returning committee members who were then were given the opportunity to provide some of their background and their interest in the DECAC.

B) Election of Officers for 2023

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Election of the DECAC Chair

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That G. Carpentier be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That nominations be closed.
CARRIED

S. Ciani noted that G. Carpentier indicated that he would stand prior to the meeting.

G. Carpentier was acclaimed to the position of Chair.

Election of the DECAC First and Second Vice-Chairs

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the positions of First and Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That J. Cuthbertson be nominated for the position of First Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That K. Murray be nominated for the position of Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee.

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by B. Baszyk,
That nominations be closed.
CARRIED

S. Ciani asked if J. Cuthbertson and K. Murray would stand. J. Cuthbertson and K. Murray indicated they would stand.

J. Cuthbertson and K. Murray were acclaimed to the positions of First and Second Vice-Chair, respectively.

In the absence of G. Carpentier, J. Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

C) Review of 2023 DECAC Meeting Schedule

A copy of the 2023 DECAC Meeting Schedule was received.

It was the consensus of the Committee to consider meeting in-person at least once per year, with the date to be determined based on room availability.

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the 2023 DEAC Meeting Schedule be approved.

CARRIED

D) Review and Approval of 2023 DECAC Workplan

A copy of the 2023 DECAC Workplan was received.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding including climate adaptation planning or greenhouse gas emissions reporting, and species management and education in the workplan; whether tree planting as a DECAC initiative would conflict with the LEAF program, or whether a partnership between DECAC and LEAF at community events would be a possibility; park clean-ups as a DECAC initiative; the importance of facilitating positive community relationships and collaborating with community climate groups; climate justice as an education piece; and the possibility of providing a forum for community climate groups.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have a presentation from Durham Trees and LEAF at a future DECAC meeting.

Moved by P. Cohen, Seconded by K. Lui,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the proposed 2023 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Workplan be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Under Item 1.0:

- Delete “Municipal Comprehensive Review (Envision Durham) process;

- Under the fourth bullet, add the words “and low-carbon pathway implementation” after the words Durham Community Energy Plan implementation;
- Add as a new bullet: “Climate action monitoring, reporting, and reduction”;
and
- Add as a new bullet: “Climate adaptation, mitigation, and resiliency initiatives”.

Under Item 2.0 (High Priority):

- Under the second bullet add the words “and organize” after the words “participate in”, and after the word “events” add the following wording:
“including but not limited to:
 - Tree planting targets and initiatives, and canopy protection and stewardship”; and
 - Opportunities for community clean-up/waste reduction”.

Under Item 2.0 (Medium Priority):

- Under the first bullet, add the words “, and the Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee” after the words “Durham Active Transportation Committee”;
- Under the first and second bullets, delete the words “and/or the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change”;
- Under the fourth bullet, add the words “and native” after the word “invasive”, and the words “and education” after the word “management”;
- Add as a new bullet: “explore opportunities for a volunteer program”; and
- Add as a new bullet: “provide a forum for community climate groups.”

Under Item 3.0:

- Add as a new bullet: “Indigenous reconciliation and partnership”; and
- Add as a new bullet: “Climate justice and inequality”.

Under Item 4.0:

- Add as a new sixth bullet: “Climate change impacts, e.g. flooding”;
- Under the ninth bullet, add the word “potential” before the words “future airport lands”;
- Add as a new bullet: “Waste management and diversion”;
- Add as a new bullet: “Environmental or climate incentives”;
- Add as a new bullet: “Environmental impacts of agricultural and bioproducts producers”; and
- Add as a new bullet: “Air quality initiatives and metrics.”

CARRIED

E) Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

A copy of the 2023 DECAC Terms of Reference was received.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Chair and Vice-Chair positions could be for a two-year term as opposed to being appointed annually, and whether consideration could be made to appointing a couple more members-at-large.

Moved by B. Basztyk, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the proposed 2023 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee
(DECAC) Terms of Reference, be approved.

CARRIED

F) Appointment of Representative on Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant
(WPCP) Advisory Committee

J. Cuthbertson advised that the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant
(WPCP) Advisory Committee is looking for a representative from DECAC.

It was the consensus of the Committee to defer this item to the June DECAC
meeting in order for members to research more on the Duffin Creek Water
Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Advisory Committee.

G) Appointment of Representative on Friends of Second Marsh Board of Directors

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That we recommend to the Planning Economic Development Committee
for approval and subsequent recommendation to Council:

That Muaz Nasir be appointed as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee (DECAC) representative on the Friends of Second Marsh Board of
Directors.

CARRIED

H) Spring Bee Pollinator Distribution Project Update

A. Luqman provided a brief overview of the Spring Bee Pollinator Distribution
Project for the new members and welcomed new members to attend any future
events.

I) Environmental Achievement Awards

A. Luqman advised that it is time to start planning for the Environmental
Achievement Awards and suggested the formation of a subcommittee. I. McVey

noted that a collaboration with Ontario Tech University could be a possibility and that he would follow-up with A. Luqman after the meeting.

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That K. Lui and K. Murray be appointed to the Environmental
Achievement Awards subcommittee.

CARRIED

J) Call for Volunteers for Rethink Resource at Whitby's Food Truck Frenzy, May 27-28 (Ian McVey)

I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, advised that he was contacted by the Rotary Club of Whitby who were looking for volunteers to help in terms of the waste management at their Food Truck Frenzy event. He advised that if any members were interested to send him an email and that he would connect them with the appropriate individuals after the meeting. P. Cohen expressed his interest in volunteering for the event.

K) Update on Climate Change-Related Work in Brock, Uxbridge, and Scugog (Melanie Kawalec)

M. Kawalec, Climate Change Coordinator, advised that she is currently helping the Township of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge with their annual reporting to create an energy baseline inventory for greenhouse gases, in their fleet and facilities. She advised that the reporting is due by July 2024 and that there is quite a bit of work to be done to get the inventory to that point.

L) Notice of Addendum and Environmental Study Report Addendum – Victoria Street/Bloor Street (Regional Road 22) from East of Thickson Road (in the Town of Whitby) to West of Stevenson Road (in the City of Oshawa)

A. Luqman advised that the initial report with respect to widening Victoria Street/Bloor Street (Regional Road 22) from East of Thickson Road, in the Town of Whitby, to West of Stevenson Road, in the City of Oshawa, was completed in 2012 and it was anticipated to have no impacts to the surrounding area. She advised that after the Region completed a more detailed assessment, it was determined that the construction to the feedermain would encroach on the regional right of way and onto Corbett Creek, resulting in an addendum report being developed. She further advised that the comment period ends May 29, 2023.

7. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report #2023-P-**: Decision Meeting Report – Envision Durham – Recommendations on the New Regional Official Plan

A copy of Report #2023-P-** of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

A. Luqman advised that the Durham Regional Official Plan was adopted by Regional Council at a Special Council meeting held May 17, 2023. She advised that the plan has been a 5-year project in the making with many decisions, touch points, and consultations with various groups including DECAC. She further advised that the Official Plan will now be submitted to the Ministry and that the final adopted Regional Official Plan as amended will be posted to the Regions website shortly.

B) Commissioner's Report #2023-COW-23: Development of Lands Removed from the Greenbelt

A copy of Report #2023-COW-23 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

C) Information Report #2023-INFO-35: Update on the Regional Municipality of Durham's Hazardous and Special Products Program

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-35 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

D) Information Report #2023-INFO-29: Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – The Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, and the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-29 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Information Report #2023-INFO-28: Durham York Energy Centre 2022 Compliance Source Test Update

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-28 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

F) Commissioner's Report #2023-WR-4: Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee 2023-2024 Workplan

A copy of Report #2023-WR-4 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

G) Minutes of the April 11th, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the April 11, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

H) Minutes of the April 13th, 2023 Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee (DATC) Meeting

A copy of the April 13, 2023 Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee (DATC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by B. Basztyk,
That Information Items 7. A) to H) inclusive, be received for information.
CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. Ozair Chaudhry

O. Chaudhry announced that he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Pickering to acknowledge his significant contribution to his environmental work in Canada, and towards the betterment of his community that included being a biological scientist, research manager, and educator for over 25 years.

B) June DECAC Agenda Item

J. Cuthbertson requested that an item be added to the June DECAC agenda for discussion with respect to a pollinator friendly landscaping pilot project in the Region of Durham that could include a “No Mow Mays” initiative.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM

J. Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk