



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

7:30 PM

THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD IN-PERSON

Meeting Room 1A
Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Please note: The Region of Durham continues to hold electronic meetings for Advisory Committees with limited in-person attendance at this time. Members of the public may [view the Committee meeting](#) via live streaming. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing delegations@durham.ca and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

1. Roll Call

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Adoption of Minutes

- A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on May 9, 2023
([Attachment 1](#))

4. Discussion Items

- A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb & A. De Vos
B) Avian Influenza and Backyard Chickens – S. Jibb
C) Agriculture 101 Training – S. Jibb & A. De Vos
D) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report – D. Risebrough
E) Durham Regional Official Plan Update – M. Scott

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2548.

- F) Regional Development Charge By-Law – S. Jibb
- G) Region of Durham Annual Business Count – M. Scott
- H) Consultation on Proposed Changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability) – M. Scott

5. Information Items

- A) [#2023-P-16](#) - DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference 2023
- B) [DAAC Resolutions](#) – May 13, 2023
- C) [#2023-P-15](#) - Envision Durham – Recommendations on the New Regional Official Plan
- D) Notice of Adoption – Regional Official Plan ([Attachment 2](#))
- E) [#2023-P-19](#) - Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – the Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813
- F) Joint Statement from Ontario's Farm Leaders on Bill 97 and Proposed Provincial Planning Statement ([Attachment 3](#))
- G) CBC News Article - [Farmers pressure Doug Ford government to reverse course on housing plan](#)
- H) [#2023-COW-23](#) - Development of Lands Removed from the Greenbelt
- I) Brock [Backyard Chickens Proposal](#)
- J) [#2023-EDT-8](#) - Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week
- K) [DECAC Minutes](#) – April 20, 2023

6. Other Business

7. Date of Next Meeting

September 12, 2023

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. This also includes oral submissions at meetings. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 9, 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: T. Barrie, Clarington, attended the meeting at 7:33 PM
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair
N. Guthrie, Ajax
B. Hulshof, Uxbridge
G. O'Connor, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:34 PM
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
H. Schillings, Member at Large
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Somerville, Member at Large
D. Stevenson, Oshawa
N. Swain, Scugog
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, attended the meeting at 7:33 PM
W. Wotten*, Regional Councillor
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: R. Death, Whitby

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. Election of Officers for 2023

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That Zac Cohoon be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Smith asked if there were any further nominations and if Z. Cohoon wished to stand. Z. Cohoon indicated he would stand.

Moved by N. Guthrie, Seconded by G. Taylor,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

Z. Cohoon was acclaimed as the Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of First Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That Dave Risebrough be nominated for the position of First Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Smith asked if there were any further nominations and if D. Risebrough wished to stand. D. Risebrough indicated he would stand.

Moved by Z. Cohoon, Seconded by N. Guthrie,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

D. Risebrough was acclaimed as the First Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by G. Taylor,
That Bryan Smith be nominated for the position of Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Smith asked if there were any further nominations and if B. Smith wished to stand. B. Smith indicated he would stand.

Moved by Z. Cohoon, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

B. Smith was acclaimed as the Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Z. Cohoon assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Lindsey Narraway, Supervisor, Animal Services, City of Pickering – Backyard Chickens in Pickering

Lindsey Narraway, Supervisor, Animal Services, City of Pickering, provided a presentation with regards to Backyard Chickens in Pickering.

L. Narraway advised that the Council of the City of Pickering adopted a resolution in February 2023 requesting staff to investigate urban farming, backyard chicken farms, and vertical farming. She stated that staff have prepared a report which will be considered at Pickering Council on June 5, 2023 with recommendations to not allow backyard chickens in the City of Pickering. She provided a brief overview of the points raised in the report to support their recommendation.

L. Narraway requested the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's support of the City of Pickering's recommendation to not proceed with a backyard chicken pilot program.

Discussion ensued with regards to the number of egg farms in Durham Region; concerns for health, safety and bio security for those producing chickens; the impact if chickens are infected by avian influenza; providing a letter of support to City of Pickering; and, the possibility of a member of the Committee delegating to the City of Pickering with their concerns.

H. Schillings indicated he would submit a delegation request to the City of Pickering to speak on this topic.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of the City of Pickering's resolution to not proceed with a backyard chicken pilot program, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the area municipalities.

CARRIED

B) Michael Scott, Project Planner, Durham Region Planning and Economic Development Department – DAAC Welcome and Overview

Michael Scott, Project Planner, Durham Region Planning and Economic Development Department provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Welcome and Overview.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Agenda
- Introductions
- Overview of DAAC
- Committee Structure
- DAAC Chair and Vice-Chair
- DAAC Terms of Reference
- DAAC Workplan
- Committee Staff
- Regional Planning Division Roles and Responsibilities
- Planning in Ontario
- Responsibilities of Regional Planning
- Current Initiatives
- 2023 Farm Tour
- 2023 Meeting Dates
- Other Matters

M. Scott welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) for 2023.

A. De Vos invited members of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee to introduce themselves and provide a brief overview of their background and their farm, business, or experience with agriculture.

Members of the committee were provided with the Growing Agri-Food Durham booklet and were encouraged to join the Farm Tour sub-committee.

Staff responded to questions with regards to the farm tour and who is invited to the farm tour each year.

6. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The Durham Region development charge by-law is currently being reviewed and the comment period has closed. There have been staff level discussions regarding the potential for amendments to the agriculture uses and farm building definitions to support on-farm diversified uses..

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The development charges are expected to increase by 80%.
- There is a webinar being delivered by the Ontario Farmland Trust on May 17, 2023 at 12:00 PM and they will be outlining the Provincial policies being proposed and the impacts to agriculture.
- Local Food Week is taking place the week of June 5th and will highlight the Village of Newcastle as the apple capital of Canada.

Discussion ensued with regards to when the development charges by-law is being presented to Council; the charge for development charges on agricultural buildings; non-residential development charges between Durham Region and area municipalities; the closing date for comments on the development charges by-law; providing a delegation to Regional Council; and concerns about the definition of on-farm diversified uses.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by G.L. O'Connor,
That the following be referred to staff for consideration during the preparation of the final report on the Development Charges By-law:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is requesting that on-farm diversified uses be considered under the agricultural exemption in the development charges by law.

CARRIED

B) Avian Influenza and Backyard Chickens

S. Jibb advised there is no further avian influenza and backyard chickens update at this time.

C) DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference 2023

M. Scott and S. Jibb provided a brief overview of the changes implemented in the 2023 Workplan.

Committee members suggested providing a yearly update on the Growing North Durham Plan; changing the wording in the workplan of "Commercial Fill" to state "Commercial fill, excess topsoil and excess soil"; and removing COVID-19 impacts and recovery from the workplan.

M. Scott responded to a question with regards to whether the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve falls under the jurisdiction of Durham Region.

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Draft 2023 Workplan of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, as
amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

Further discussion ensued with regards to the composition of the Committee and
adding one member representing Durham Farm Fresh. Discussion also ensued
with respect to adding a youth member to the Committee.

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by G.L. O'Connor,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be
amended under Composition to add one (1) member representing Durham Farm
Fresh who is a bona fide farmer directly involved in the agricultural industry.

CARRIED

D) Bill 97 – Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023 – Provincial Policy
Statement and A Place to Grow Review

Information Report #2023-INFO-29 of the Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development – Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – The Helping
Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, and the Proposal Provincial Planning
Statement, ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813 was provided as
Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that the following changes are being proposed under Bill 97:

- That Minister's Zoning Orders are changing to allow the Minister the ability to exempt subject lands from complying with Provincial policy and Official Plans.
- That boundary expansions are no longer required to be considered through a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR).
- The new Provincial Policy Statement has eliminated the requirement of alternative evaluations for both settlement area expansions and mineral aggregate extraction rehabilitation.
- That Agriculture System mapping is no longer a requirement, but rather encouraged.
- That planning authorities "should consider" whether the applicable lands comprise specialty crop areas.

- That rural lots, outside the Greenbelt Plan Area will be changing to allow for two new residential units subordinate to principal dwelling and three residential lots from the existing agricultural parcel.
- That the 2023 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) is proposing to remove the current PPS direction for the promotion of recreation, tourism, and other economic opportunities on rural lands.

Discussion ensued with regards to the number of severances allowed on non-abutting farmlands; services being provided to rural areas; when the comment period for Bill 97 ends; and preparing a motion to oppose the approval of Bill 97.

Moved by M. Somerville, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional
Council:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee strongly opposes Bill 97 as it does not consider the impact of severances on Minimum Distance Separations in relation to animal operations; and it encourages farmland fragmentation which will negatively impact long-term farm environmental and economic sustainability.

CARRIED

E) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report

D. Risebrough provided a brief overview of the events for the 2023 farm tour for the new Committee members. He advised that an on-site visit needs to be arranged prior to the next meeting date.

It was the consensus of the Committee that N. Swain be added to the Farm Tour Sub-Committee.

7. Information Items

A) Notice of Special Meeting of Durham Regional Council for Final Draft Regional Official Plan

Advertisement for Notice of Special Meeting of Durham Regional Council for the recommended final draft Durham Regional Official Plan was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that the final draft Regional Official Plan will be presented to Regional Council at the Special Meeting of Regional Council on May 17, 2023 and that once it is approved it will be provided to the Province for approval. He further advised there were minor changes to the agricultural rural system chapter, modified farm definitions, and lot sizing requirements.

M. Scott responded to a question with regards to the policy for on-farm diversified uses on agricultural lands.

8. Other Business

A) Livestock Identification and Traceability

Z. Cohoon raised concerns with regards to proposed changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations and the changes with respect to who is registering the livestock. He advised that the comment period is open until June 16, 2023.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by M. Somerville, Seconded by B. Hulshof,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk

Date of Decision: May 17, 2023

Date of Notice: May 30, 2023

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Notice of Adoption

In accordance with Section 17 (22) and 26 of the Planning Act, R.S.O 1990, C.P.13, the Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham passed By-law No. 38-2023, adopting the Durham Region 2023 Official Plan, on May 17, 2023.

This Notice of Adoption is issued pursuant to Section 17(23) of the Planning Act.

Purpose and Effect of the Requested Official Plan Amendment

The purpose and effect of this adoption is to repeal the existing Regional Official Plan, and to establish a new Regional Official Plan upon approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The new Regional Official Plan is intended to guide decisions on long-term growth, infrastructure investment and development – providing strategic policy direction to ensure an improved quality of life – to secure the health, safety, convenience and well-being of present and future residents of Durham.

The new Regional Official Plan includes policy and mapping changes required to conform to provincial plans and policies. The Regional Official Plan provides policies and strategic directions that guide future growth, infrastructure and service delivery, land use planning, and development related matters.

The new Regional Official Plan was prepared in conformity to the Greenbelt Plan (2017), the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2020) and is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (2020).

The adopted Regional Official Plan and background materials are available at www.durham.ca/envisiondurham. The adopted Regional Official Plan is also available for viewing at the Front Desk of the Regional Municipality of Durham, 605 Rossland Road East, First Floor, Whitby, Ontario, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information on the new ROP, contact Planning and Economic Development at envisiondurham@durham.ca or call 905-668-7711.

Written and Oral Submissions

Public consultation on the adoption was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act. The Region received written and oral submissions on the adoption. All submissions were given full consideration. Further details regarding how the public input was considered is available in Commissioner's Report #2023-P-15 and #2023-P-6.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097

Decision of Regional Council

The Council of the Regional Municipality of Durham adopted the new Durham Regional Official Plan by By-law No. 38-2023, on May 17, 2023.

When the Decision Becomes Final:

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority for this new Regional Official Plan under Sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act. Any person or public body is entitled to receive notice of the Minister's decision regarding the new Durham Regional Official Plan if a written request containing the person's or public body's address is made to the Minister. Requests to receive the Notice of Decision should be sent to:

Laurie Miller, Regional Director, Planning
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Municipal Services Office Central Ontario
777 Bay Street, 16th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Email requests can be sent to msoc.admin@ontario.ca



Joint Statement from Ontario's Farm Leaders on Bill 97 and Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

The leadership of Ontario's agricultural organizations, named below, are united in asking the Ontario government to take pause on its recently released Proposed Provincial Planning Statement and newly proposed Bill 97.

We stand in strong opposition to the 3 lot severances per farm parcel proposed in prime agricultural areas as well as other measures that weaken local farmland protection. We request that the limited circumstances permitting residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas under the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, be retained in the new Proposed Provincial Planning Statement.

Residential lot creation in agricultural areas has long been controversial and the detrimental impacts for agriculture are well demonstrated, including fragmentation of the agricultural land base, increased conflicts between neighbouring land uses, risk of inflating farmland prices and increasing costs to municipalities. In addition, we have significant concerns regarding the speculative investment that this proposal will drive, resulting in farmland values that make farming even more unattainable for the next generation. Any policies that might open land for speculative purchase and investment need to be discouraged.

As farm leaders and organizations, we have worked diligently to manage and mitigate conflict between farming and non-farming neighbours in all types of agriculture. The proposed changes will exacerbate conflict between farming and non-farming neighbours for all aspects of farming including application of crop nutrition and crop protection products, wildlife control and more. We support Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) and see it as a valuable tool to minimize

conflicts between farm operations and residential areas with respect to livestock operations. Additional lot severances proposed will make it difficult or impossible for farmers to operate, expand and grow their farms.

We do not support policies that will increase residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas or in rural areas that are actively farmed. Ontario boasts some of Canada's richest and most fertile farmland and these policy changes put the sustainability of that land and the food system it provides at great risk.

Ontario's agri-food sector is an economic powerhouse, fuelling rural communities, generating nearly 750,000 jobs and contributing more than \$47 billion to Ontario's annual GDP. The province's agri-food strategy, [Grow Ontario](#), aims to strengthen the agri-food sector, support economic growth and ensure an efficient, reliable and responsible food supply. Ontario's farmers are positioned to seize opportunities and rise to the challenge of an ambitious growth strategy, allowing the agri-food sector to drive the economy forward. To farm, we need farmland.

Ontario's productive farmland is a scarce resource, making up less than five per cent of all the land in the province. It is our unwavering position that agricultural production is the most valued and best use of this land. We believe in the importance of a healthy, viable and sustainable supply of food products grown, harvested and processed right here at home. We are confident that long-term food system security for the people of Ontario, Canada and the world is a shared priority with the general public and our governments.

Collectively, we seek your commitment to preserving Ontario's farmland and specialty croplands across the province. The implications of Bill 97 and the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement for Ontario agriculture are significant and concerning for the agriculture and agri-food sector. These decisions will have long-term, intergenerational implications for Ontario farmers, food security, water resources and the agri-food economy.

Directing growth to settlement areas, urban and rural is better for both agriculture and municipalities. Housing needs can be met in serviced settlement areas on a much smaller land base. This reduces farmland loss and potential land use conflicts while encouraging ongoing investment in farm and farm-related businesses. It also ensures efficient use of municipal infrastructure investments and reduces costs to provide services. Responsible land-use planning is critical to balancing the needs of our growing communities and to ensure that our agriculture and agri-food sector survives and thrives.

We ask for the opportunity to work together with the government to develop a way forward to support and create the framework for needed housing and development while ensuring the long-term success and viability of the agriculture sector.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brekveld, President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Max Hansgen, President
National Farmers Union-Ontario

Ed Scharringa, President
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario

William Bearss, Chair
Ontario Broiler Hatching Egg & Chick Commission

Jack Chaffe, President
Beef Farmers of Ontario

John DeBruyn, Chair
Ontario Pork

Scott Helps, Chair
Egg Farmers of Ontario

John Hemsted, Chair
Ontario Sheep Farmers

Phil Kroesbergen, Chair
Veal Farmers of Ontario

Murray Opsteen, Chair
Chicken Farmers of Ontario

Bernard Pope, Chair and Martin Straathof, Executive Director
Ontario Farmland Trust

Brian Ricker, Chair
Turkey Farmers of Ontario

Murray Sherk, Chair
Dairy Farmers of Ontario

Albert Witteveen, Chair
Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance