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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 21, 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. Roll Call

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair  
B. Baszyk, Brock  
O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge  
K. Lui, Member at Large  
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:08 PM  
M. Nasir, Ajax  
L. Nguyen, Youth Member  
Councillor Shahid attended the meeting at 8:23 PM  
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa  
B. Widner, Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student

#### Staff

Present: A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
S. Logan, Policy Advisor, Climate Change  
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability  
**\*all staff members participated electronically**

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B. Baszyk, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,  
That the agenda for the September 21, 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 J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by M. Nasir,  
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, be adopted.  
CARRIED

#### 5. Presentation

A) No Mow May, Draft Delegation to the Regional Planning and Economic  
Development Committee, Geoff Carpentier and Jay Cuthbertson

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G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) and J. Cuthbertson, First Vice-Chair, DECAC, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding their draft delegation to the Planning & Economic Development Committee with respect to rethinking how roadside and public spaces are maintained.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Why We Need to Look at Changing
- Municipal Considerations
- From Nature's Perspective
- Benefits to Region
- What We are Asking

Discussion ensued regarding whether local businesses can be involved in the pilot, and how the Committee could educate local businesses on how to start pollinator gardens. J. Cuthbertson advised that he could create a tip sheet that could be circulated with instructions on how to start a pollinator garden. I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, advised that through the Region's LEAF Program, homeowners can purchase native garden kits, as well as butterfly, songbird, native bee, and shade thriving kits.

Further discussion ensued regarding the importance of educating residents about how roadside and public spaces should be maintained and how moving towards a more naturalized approach would increase safe habitats for birds, pollinators, and other animals, while also providing additional benefits to the Region, which could include the reduction of flooding.

I. McVey advised that the Town of Ajax recently passed a motion in support of "No Mow May", as local municipalities may have more naturalized space to utilize as opposed to residents.

## 6. Items for Action/Discussion

### A) Introduction of New Sustainability Team Member

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I. McVey advised that Shannon Logan has joined the Region as the Policy Advisor, Climate Change, and comes from the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). S. Logan expressed her interest in the Committee and looks forward to connecting with the committee members.

### B) Sustainability Project Update (Ian McVey)

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I. McVey provided updates on the following sustainability projects throughout the Region:

- Durham Greener Homes
- Durham Greener Buildings Program
  - What is the Program Aiming to Do?
- ClimateWise Business Network – Member Journey
- E-bike Incentive Program Design
- Courtice District Energy System Feasibility Study
- Durham Green Development Program

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with respect to the safety of e-bikes; the short life span of e-bikes; ensuring the proper disposal of the lithium batteries from e-bikes; and ensuring the batteries have been Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certified.

### C) Environmental Achievement Awards Update

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A. Luqman advised that the nomination deadline for the 2023 Environmental Achievement Awards has been extended until Wednesday, October 4, 2023. She advised that DECAC will partner with Ontario Tech University for the event which will be held November 14, 2023, at the Ontario Tech University campus which can hold up to 75 people. She further advised that volunteers will be needed for various event tasks and encouraged all committee members to attend.

A. Luqman advised that staff are reaching out to different organizations who might be interested in sponsoring the event. She advised that CLOCA has committed to donate 1 or 2 litre trees to give to award recipients in exchange for a sponsor booth at the event.

A. Luqman advised that she will send out a calendar invitation to committee members.

### D) Uxbridge Provincial Park Open House (Ian McVey)

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I. McVey advised that the province recently announced that an urban provincial park will be created in the Township of Uxbridge. He also advised that a public

information open house has been scheduled for October 23, 2023, from 4:00 -7:30 PM at the Uxbridge Secondary School, and that a formal invitation will be sent out to Committee members.

**7. For Information**

A) Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment Report

A copy of the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment Report was received.

I. McVey advised that staff will be reviewing the Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment Report and providing a summary report to Regional Council.

B) Proposal to Return Lands to the Greenbelt in Ajax (Amendment to Greenbelt Plan) ERO #019-7561

A copy of the proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt in the Town of Ajax (Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan) ERO #019-7561 was received.

C) Proposal to Return Lands to the Greenbelt (Amendment to Greenbelt Boundary Regulation O. Reg. 59/05) ERO #019-7562

A copy of the proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt (Amendment to the Greenbelt Boundary Regulation O. Reg. 59/05) ERO #019-7562 was received.

D) Commissioner's Report #2023-P-22: Bill 23 Update: Delegation of Durham Region Land Division Responsibilities

A copy of Report #2023-P-23 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Government of Canada Rouge National Urban Park Study Website and Terms of Reference

A link to the Government of Canada Rouge National Urban Park Study website and Terms of Reference was received.

F) Information Report #2023-INFO-75: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Pollinator Distribution Project

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-75 of the of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- G) Information Report #2023-INFO-72: Quarterly Report – Commissioner’s Delegated Planning Approval Authority, and Summary of Planning Activity in the Second Quarter of 2023

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-72 of the of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- H) Information Report #2023-INFO-71: Durham Meadoway Visioning Study: Phase 2 Community Engagement

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-71 of the of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- I) Information Report #2023-INFO-64: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement Update, ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, and #019-6813

A copy of Report #2023-INFO-64 of the of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

- J) PDS 2023-21: Town of Ajax Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

A copy of PDS 2023-21: Town of Ajax Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement was received.

- K) Commissioner’s Report #2023-COW-27: Durham Climate Roundtable – Amended Collaboration Agreement with Ontario Tech University

A copy of Report #2023-COW-27 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

- L) Friends of Second Marsh July/August Newsletter

A copy of the Friends of Second Marsh July/August Newsletter was received.

A. Luqman advised that the Friends of Second Marsh would like to delegate to the Committee.

M. Nasir advised that the Friends of Second Marsh are launching a fundraising campaign on October 3, 2023, for the McLaughlin Wildlife Reserve’s 5-Year Initiative. He also advised that the Friends of Second Marsh are looking at other ways they can bring more attention to the value and contributions of the Second Marsh.

I. McVey advised that there is a funding opportunity through the Wetland Conservation Partner Program and the deadline to apply is October 12, 2023. He stated he could help facilitate an application if the group was interested.

A question was raised by the Committee regarding the removal of the viewing tower by the City of Oshawa that was located along the northeast shore of the

Second Marsh, and whether it will be replaced. It was noted that it was a vital part of the public access to the marsh and allowed the public to see more of the marsh. M. Nasir advised that he will bring that concern to the next Friends of Second Marsh meeting.

M) Commissioner's Report #2023-COW-24: Durham Greener Homes Program 2023 Update

A copy of Report #2023-COW-24 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

N) Summary of the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plan Amendments – Public Consultation

A copy of the summary of the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plan Amendments – Public Consultation was received.

O) Memorandum from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development, re: Envision Durham, New Regional Official Plan

A copy of the memorandum from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development, re: Envision Durham, New Regional Official Plan was received.

P) Minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Durham Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee

A copy of the minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Durham Energy from Waste – Waste Management Advisory Committee meeting was received.

Q) Minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Meeting

A copy of the minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting was received.

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by K. Murray,  
That Information Items 7. A) to Q) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

A) Update from the Joint Trail Sustainability Advisory Committee

G. Carpentier advised that the Joint Trail Sustainability Advisory Committee has raised \$134,000 and are looking at how to best spend the money. He advised that the trail sustainability project has been extended another year, and that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be amended to reflect this.

B) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Farm Tour

G. Carpentier advised that himself, O. Chaudhry, and B. Baszyk attended the 2023 DAAC Farm Tour held at Carncroft Farms and Swain Beef in Blackstock and encouraged all members to attend next year's farm tour.

C) Phragmites Pilot Program Using Integrated Pest Management

In response to a question from the Committee regarding a potential phragmites pilot program that would use an integrated pest management system, A. Luqman advised that she would follow-up with I. McVey, M. Kawalec, and S. Logan to see what information is available regarding the program.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by K. Murray,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM

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

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S. Ciani, Committee Clerk