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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 16, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: B. Basztyk, Brock
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
Councillor Shahid
B. Widner, Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student
J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair
K. Lui, Member at Large
M. Nasir, Ajax
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
N. Halim, Sustainability Policy Advisor, Office of the CAO
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
***all staff members participated electronically**

In the absence of J. Cuthbertson, Chair, K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by B. Basztyk, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That the agenda for the May 16, 2024 Durham Environment and Climate
Advisory Committee (DECAC) meeting, be approved.

CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary 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 18, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. **Presentations**

A) Durham Food System Report Card, Mary-Anne Martin, Durham Food Policy Council

Mary-Anne Martin and Mary Drummond, Durham Food Policy Council, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham Food System Report Card.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham Food Policy Council (DFPC) Mission
- DFPC Food System Work
- Food System Planning & Food Sovereignty
 - Durham Region Food Charter
- Food System Report Cards
 - Methodology
 - Data Inclusion Criteria
 - Structure of Findings (7 Pillars)
 - Pillar 4 Works with Nature Current Metrics
 - Renewable Energy Production on Farms
 - Possible Metrics – Recommendation
- Where do we go from here?
- Questions

M-A. Martin responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the data that they collected from 2015 was the most up-to-date data available; and what the percentage was of individuals living in Durham Region that were food insecure from 2018 to 2022.

6. **Items for Action/Discussion**

A) Spring Pollinator Project Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman thanked the Committee members that helped to pack the seed packets, with a special thanks to K. Murray and her students who packed 1,000 seed packets. She advised that 3 compost giveaway events have occurred (Town of Ajax, City of Oshawa, and the Township of Brock), and that 5 events remain.

B) Tour of McLaughlin Bay and Second Marsh Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that on Monday, May 13, 2024, G. Carpentier, O. Chaudhry, S. Ciani, and herself, attended a guided tour by P. Taylor, President, Friends of Second Marsh, and A. Groen, Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) of the McLaughlin Bay and Wildlife Reserve and Second Marsh. G. Carpentier noted how forward thinking the Friends of Marsh are, and that they look to promote a healthy environment through education, communication, developing partnerships, and fostering connections with all sectors of the community.

C) Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Decision on Enbridge Gas 2024 Rate Application and Bill 165 – Keeping Energy Costs Lower Act (I. McVey)

A copy of Report #2024-A-7: December 2023 Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Enbridge Gas Inc. decision and proposed amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998 and the presentation to Regional Council on April 24, 2024, was received.

In I. McVey's absence, N. Halim advised that Report #2024-A-7: December 2023 Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Enbridge Gas Inc. decision and Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Energy Board Act was presented to Regional Council on April 24, 2024, and approved. He advised that the report summarized the implications of the OEB's decision.

D) Durham Mechanicals Technology (Heat Pump) Forum – June 5, 2024 (I. McVey)

In I. McVey's absence, N. Halim informed the Committee of an upcoming event being hosted by Durham Region's Home Builders Association (HBA) that will be focused on mechanical systems, best practices for the sizing, selection and design of hybrid heating combination space and water heating systems (ex. heat pumps), and other low carbon efficient systems. He advised that there will be a roster of guest speakers that are industry experts and that there is a registration fee.

N. Halim responded to a question from the Committee regarding the cost of a heat pump and what is the strategy for retrofitting homes with a heat pump as opposed to new builds where they are installed from the start.

E) Fall Durham Climate Forum

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee would be interested in participating in the Fall Durham Climate Forum, even though there would not be an Environmental Awards component, as the awards occur every two years.

A. Luqman advised that Durham staff have met with Ontario Tech University to brainstorm what the event could look like (venues, dates, etc.). Staff are looking to offer a more broad, animated, and family-friendly event that would include David Suzuki's Foundations Art and incorporate a cultural aspect.

It was the consensus of the Committee that they would like to participate in some capacity. Discussion ensued regarding forming a subcommittee to brainstorm further ideas before the June DECAC meeting. K. Murray expressed an interest in participating.

7. For Information

A) Heat Pumps for All Campaign

A copy of the Heat Pumps for All Campaign was received.

B) Information Report #2024-INFO-25: Update on Provincial Energy Sector Activities

A copy of Report #2024-INFO-25 of the Chief Administrative Officer was received.

C) Durham York Energy Centre Quarterly (Q4 – October 2023-January 2024) Long-Term Sampling System Report

A copy of the Durham York Energy Centre Quarterly (Q4 – October 2023-January 2024) Long-Term Sampling System Report was received.

D) Commissioner's Report #2024-P-10: Durham Transit-Oriented Development Strategy

A copy of Report #2024-P-10 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

E) Commissioner's Report #2024-WR-5: Durham York Energy Centre – Analysis of Ambient Air and Emissions Monitoring to Identify Local Airshed Impacts

A copy of Report #2024-WR-5 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

F) Minutes of the April 9th, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting (link to minutes)

A copy of the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting was received.

Moved by B. Basztyk, Seconded by B. Widner,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. F) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) A message from the President and CEO of Birds Canada – Geoff Carpentier’s 2024 Birdathon

G. Carpentier announced that he will taking part in the 2024 Birdathon and that he would send a secure link to the Birdathon to the Committee members if anyone wished to make a donation. He also shared a video from the President and CEO of Birds Canada who posted a personal thank you to G. Carpentier for his fundraising efforts.

B) In-Person June Meeting

The Committee confirmed that they would like to hold the June 20, 2024, DECAC meeting in-person at Regional headquarters with a hybrid option for those that cannot attend in-person to ensure that there is quorum.

C) Nature Canada Bird Friendly Town Certification – Township of Uxbridge

G. Carpentier shared that North Durham Nature and the Township of Uxbridge will be working together to submit an application for the Nature Canada Bird Friendly Town certificate. He advised that he would share the press release with A. Luqman to distribute to the Committee.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, 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 O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

K. Murray, Second Vice-Chair, Durham
Environment and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk