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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 20, 2024

A regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:10 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: J. Cuthbertson, Member at Large, Chair attended the meeting at 7:30 PM
G. Carpentier, Scugog, First Vice-Chair left the meeting at 8:09 PM
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
P. Cohen, Post-Secondary Student attended the meeting at 7:14 PM
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
M. Nasir, Ajax
L. Nguyen, Youth Member
D. Stathopoulos, Oshawa
B. Widner, Whitby

***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: B. Basztyk, Brock
K. Lui, Member at Large
K. Murray, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
Councillor Shahid

Staff

Present: S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
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, G. Carpentier, First Vice-Chair assumed the Chair.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by B. Widner,
That the agenda for the June 20, 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 B. Widner, Seconded by D. Stathopolous,
That the minutes of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory
Committee meeting held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. **Presentations**

A) Leveling the Playing Field for Energy Choices in Ontario, Gaby Kalapos, Clean Air Partnership

Gaby Kalapos, Clean Air Partnership, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding examples of fossil fuel subsidies and municipal opportunities to address fossil fuel subsidies.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Municipalities and Climate Change
- Energy Decision Matrix
 - Examples of Energy Decision Matrix Use
- The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Fossil Fuel Situation
- The OEB Enbridge Fossil Fuel Consequences
- The Need to Move a Big Ship – Ontario’s Energy System Offerings
- Show Me the Money
- Municipalities with Resolutions to Support OEB Decision to Lower Energy Bills
- Ontario Energy Board – Fossil Fuel Subsidy
 - Mechanical System Costs (ex. low rise)
- Options for Municipalities to Level the Playing Field
- Franchise Agreements in Canada
- Model Franchise Agreement Amendment Request
- Pipeline Taxes
- Costs of Pipelines in the Right-of-Way (ROW)
- Licensing Fees
- Mitigating Impact on Fossil Fuel Ratepayers
- Model Franchise Agreement Review Primer
 - Link
 - Sample Resolution
- Questions and Discussions

G. Kalapos responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether allowing municipalities to charge utility companies for access to right-of-ways (ROWS) or property taxes would increase the cost to consumers as the utility

companies are not paying the fees or property taxes themselves; and the municipal opportunities to address fossil fuel subsidies.

6. Items for Discussion

A) Regional Official Plan Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that Regional Council adopted the Regional Official Plan (OP) in May of 2023, and since that point all required documents were submitted to the province. She advised that the Region received a draft decision on May 6, 2024, from the province with 77 modifications to the OP that included many updates that staff had requested but also some major modifications that the province added to the OP. She further advised that the Region's preliminary response will be considered by Regional Council on June 26, 2024, which will also be shared with the Committee.

B) Spring Pollinator Project Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that all 8 compost giveaway days have been completed for the year and that they were very well received. She noted that one piece of feedback she received was that many residents weren't aware of the events due to paper media not being utilized.

A. Luqman advised that due to a lack of participation from the committee at the actual compost giveaway events, the Spring pollinator project may not be able to happen next year as these events need to be led by Committee members and not by Regional staff.

Discussion ensued regarding what would happen with the remaining seeds that were not given out.

C) Fall Durham Climate Forum Update (A. Luqman)

A. Luqman advised that the Fall Durham Climate Forum will run in partnership with the Region's Sustainability Office and the Brilliant Energy Institute at Ontario Tech University. She advised that it will be a two-part event, one weekday event geared towards professionals, and one weekend event that will be geared towards families and will have activities for children.

Discussion ensued regarding how the Committee can be involved in the forum and the following ideas were raised:

- Leading a tree or native plant planting activity;
- Handing out pollinator seeds;
- Giving away seedlings to the first 50 visitors;
- Having a booth set up to give away items and provide general education on the DECAC;

- Hosting an art from garbage activity/competition where students would create an art piece from garbage/recycled materials; and
- Hosting a photography component (competition or exhibit) of climate focused photography (storm pictures, sunsets etc.).

Moved by M. Nasir, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That a Durham Climate Forum Subcommittee be formed, and that M. Nasir, P. Cohen, J. Cuthbertson, and K. Murray be appointed to the subcommittee.

CARRIED

At this time, J. Cuthbertson, Chair, attended the meeting and assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

7. For Information

A) Energy efficiency updates to Ontario Building Code – Bill 199, EV-Ready Homes Act (Electric Vehicle Charging), 2024

A copy of the energy efficiency updates to the Ontario Building Code – Bill 199, EV-Ready Homes Act (Electric Vehicle Charging) was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the energy efficiency updates to the Ontario Building Code – Bill 199 and whether the updates would be beneficial or consequential for homeowners.

Moved by P. Cohen, Seconded by M. Nasir,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development for approval and subsequent approval by Regional Council:

Whereas to achieve GHG reduction targets in Durham Region a significant increase in the uptake of electric vehicles will be required;

Whereas to increase uptake there is an urgent need to ensure that new homes built in the Region are EV-ready with 200-amp electrical service, as well as electrical conduit, and outlet box in the garage;

Whereas the costs to make new homes EV ready are understood to be significantly less than the costs to retrofit homes;

Therefore be it resolved that the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) supports the proposed amendments to the Ontario Building Code outlined in Bill 199 and recommends to the Planning and Economic Development Committee that this motion be forwarded to Regional Council for their consideration and expression of support.

CARRIED

- B) Trees for Life Hero Forests Program – Campaign Information & FAQ
A copy of the Trees for Life Hero Forests Program – Campaign Information & FAQ was received.
- C) Ontario Supporting Local Actions to Protect the Great Lakes – News Release
A copy of the Ontario Supporting Local Actions to Protect the Great Lakes – News Release was received.
- D) Commissioner’s Report #2024-P-13: Regional comments on ERO Posting #019-8707 to amend the lands covered by Ontario Regulation 102/72 (Federal Airport Lands MZO) in the City of Pickering
A copy of Report #2024-P-13 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.
- E) Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Oshawa Official Plan – Council Resolution
A copy of the Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Oshawa Official Plan – Council Resolution was received.
- F) Information Report #2024-INFO-34: Water and Wastewater Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management Strategy Overview
A copy of Report #2024-INFO-34 of the Commissioner of Works was received.
- G) Information Report #2024-INFO-35: York Region Sewage Works Project Progress Update
A copy of Report #2024-INFO-35 of the Commissioner of Works was received.
- H) Information Report #2024-INFO-37: Quarterly Report - Commissioner’s Delegated Planning Approval Authority, and Summary of Planning Activity in the first Quarter of 2024
A copy of Report #2024-INFO-37 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.
- I) City of Pickering Official Plan Review – Council Resolution
A copy of the City of Pickering Official Plan Review – Council Resolution was received.

J) Minutes of the May 14, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting

A copy of the May 14, 2024, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting minutes was received.

Moved by B. Widner, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That Information Items 7. A) to 7. J) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

There was no other business considered.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

J. Cuthbertson, Chair, Durham Environment
and Climate Advisory Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk