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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 20, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:32 PM

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
E. Bowman, Clarington
B. Howsam, Member at Large
J. Henderson, Oshawa
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Regional Councillor
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
B. Smith, Uxbridge
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
H. Schillings, Whitby
I. Bacon, Member at Large
G. Taylor, Pickering

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
L. MacKenzie, Program Coordinator, Department of Planning and Economic Development
P. Veiga, Supervisor, Waste Management Services, Works Department, left the meeting at 8:02 PM
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Howsam,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on February 13, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Delegation

A) Bob Broadstock, Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario Inc. (QROOI), Ajax Downs

B. Broadstock, Quarter Racing Owners of Ontario Inc. provided a verbal presentation with regards to the quarter horse racing industry. He stated that there are concerns that the Ajax Downs Casino will be moved to a proposed development, Durham Live, in the City of Pickering. B. Broadstock stated that having the Ajax Downs Casino connected with the race track helps keep the quarter horse racing industry viable, primarily from the sharing of costs and attraction of the gaming facility. He stated that if the Ajax Downs Casino is moved, the costs, property taxes, and maintenance of the facility would have to be covered solely by the race track operator. QROOI is investigating race track options, including looking at other potential locations in Durham, should the gaming facility be relocated.

B. Broadstock advised that approximately 300 families in Durham Region depend on the horse racing industry for their livelihood. He also advised that 25,000 acres of land in Durham Region is farmed to support the horses in the industry and that the industry draws in other services that have broader benefits for the local agricultural community, such as high quality veterinary services. B. Broadstock stated that should the Ajax Downs Casino be moved, it is important that there be provisions in place to ensure the continued viability of quarter horse racing in the community.

Discussion ensued with regards to the economic importance of the horse racing industry to Durham Region.

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Winter,
That we recommend to the Committee of the Whole for approval
and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That whereas the quarter horse racing industry is an important part of the rural economy in Durham Region, a letter of support be provided to support the quarter horse racing industry and related businesses in Durham Region.

CARRIED

4. Presentation

A) Peter Veiga, Supervisor, Waste Management Services, Works Department, Region of Durham, Bale Wrap Recycling Program Changes

P. Veiga, Supervisor, Waste Management Services, Works Department, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Durham Region Waste Management Bale Wrap Recycling Program.

P. Veiga stated that the Bale Wrap Recycling Program started in 2005 as a one year pilot at the Scugog Waste Management Facility and expanded in 2006 to the Oshawa, Brock and Scugog Waste Management Facilities. He advised that dedicated loads of clean, white agricultural bale wrap is accepted at the three regional Waste Management Facility sites and must be delivered free of debris, must be untied, and weigh less than 5 kgs each. He stated that the program is free for area farmers.

P. Veiga stated that bale wrap was collected and processed by Think Plastics Inc. under a no cost contract. However, in 2015, Think Plastics Inc. closed, leaving material stockpiling at the regional Waste Management Facility sites. He advised that there are currently no Ontario processors who collect loose material from municipal depots and that staff is investigating alternative plastic film recycling opportunities as well as market and partnership opportunities. P. Veiga further advised that Durham will continue to accept bale wrap free of charge at the Waste Management Facility sites while it continues to investigate alternate recycling bale wrap markets.

5. Discussion Items

A) Regional Official Plan Amendment 2018-001, Youngfield Farms Limited

A copy of the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Youngfield Farms Limited to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of a non-abutting farm parcel in the Township of Scugog, File: OPA 2018-001 was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda. Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the proposed severance.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Watpool,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Youngfield Farms Limited to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of a non-abutting farm parcel in the Township of Scugog, File: OPA 2018-001.

CARRIED

B) Opportunities for collaboration with Durham Active Transportation Committee

K. Kilbourne advised that the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be attending the May DAAC meeting to provide a presentation.

C) Joint Workshop with DEAC Update

K. Kilbourne advised that a copy of Information Report #2018-INFO-42 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Climate Change Symposium, was provided to Regional Council members by way of the March 9, 2018 Council Information Package.

D) Durham Region Climate Change and Agriculture Expert Task Force Update

K. Kilbourne advised that the first meeting of the Durham Region Climate Change and Agriculture Expert Task Force was held on March 19, 2018. She confirmed that E. Bowman and D. Risebrough attended. Discussion ensued with regards to membership gaps and the need to recruit more farm representation from the soil and crop industry, the Durham Dairy Farmers, the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture and the Grain Farmers. The next Expert Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2018.

E) 2018 DAAC Farm Tour

Discussion ensued with regards to deciding on speakers for the Tour as well as setting up a site visit. The sub-committee agreed to meet on March 28, 2018 to discuss further logistics of the Farm Tour.

F) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. MacKenzie provided the following update on behalf of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development:

- With regards to the Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project, staff is on target and is hoping to interview 80 businesses.
- Presentations from Durham Farm Connections and Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association were well received at the March 7, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Janet Horner, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, will be providing a presentation at the Committee of the Whole on April 4, 2018 regarding a local food procurement project to raise awareness about local food in long term care homes. A handout with detailed information was provided to committee members.
- OMAFRA has extended an invitation to the agricultural community to a webinar to learn more about the Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document and to give an opportunity to ask questions. The webinar is scheduled for March 28, 2018 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM and will be held in Meeting Room 1R at Regional Headquarters.

- The Clarington Agricultural Summit is scheduled for March 23, 2018 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Newcastle Village Community Hall.
- There is a Local Food Business Networking Event being held on April 10, 2018 from 10 AM to 1:30 PM at Bistro '67, Durham College.

6. Information Items

A) Climate Change Symposium (2018-INFO-42)

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-42 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Climate Change Symposium, was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

B) Appointment of Councillor Ted Smith to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Association Board of Governors

A copy of correspondence from R. Walton, Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services, regarding the appointment of Councillor Ted Smith of the Township of Brock as Regional Council's representative to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Association Board of Governors was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda.

7. Other Business

A) Regional Development Charges By-law

K. Kilbourne advised that the Region is looking at updating the Regional Development Charges By-law. She advised that DAAC will have an opportunity to provide comments.

B) Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document

K. Kilbourne advised that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs has posted the draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document for public comment on the Environmental Registry. Comments will be accepted between March 15 and July 13, 2018. K. Kilbourne advised that she will provide a presentation to the committee at the April meeting with regards to what is being proposed.

C) Public Meeting re: Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan

K. Kilbourne advised that the Region is considering an amendment to the Durham Regional Official Plan to implement a number of changes recommended through the new Transportation Master Plan. A public meeting is being held during the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 4, 2018 at 9 AM in Council Chambers to provide an opportunity for interested parties and the public to comment.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by E. Bowman, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk