

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 19, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:05 PM.

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog  
O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
S. Clearwater, Whitby  
J. Henry, Regional Councillor, City of Oshawa arrived at 7:34 PM and left at 9:00 PM  
C. Junop, Youth Member  
G. Layton, Uxbridge, Member at Large  
H. Manns, Chair, Clarington  
W. Moss-Newman, Oshawa  
K. Murray, Clarington, Member at Large  
C. Pettingill, Second Vice-Chair, Brock  
E. Porter, Youth Member  
M. Thompson, Ajax, Member at Large

Absent: C. Duffy, Post-Secondary Member  
K. McDonald, Uxbridge  
K. Sellers, First Vice-Chair, Ajax  
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large

#### **Staff**

Present: A. Bathe, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Trewin, Project Engineer, Region of Durham, Works Department

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,  
That the agenda for the April 19, 2018, DEAC meeting, as presented, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by C. Pettingill, Seconded by K. Murray,  
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
March 22, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentations**

A) Regional Tree Planting on Regional Roads – Ron Trewin, Project Engineer, Region of Durham Works Department

R. Trewin provided a presentation titled Planting in Durham as Part of the Regional Road Transportation Program.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Examples of planting outside the road right of way
- How this presentation came about
- Planting within the road right of way
  - Capital roads growth budget projects
  - Capital roads non growth reconstruction projects
  - Annual roads landscape budget
    - Boulevard tree planting and early maintenance
  - Development boulevard tree planting in Urban areas
- Region Transportation Tree Planting Priorities
- Policies, Guidelines & Regulations for Tree Removals and Tree Planting
- Common Sense Rules for Tree Planting
- Landscape Standards for the Regional Road boulevards
- Project Understanding
  - Document planting vision for regional roads
  - Develop standard of planting to be achieved
  - Develop guidelines for tree planting locations and strategies
  - Develop tree species guidelines
- Examples of Region Tree Planting
  - Formal Urban Boulevard Tree Planting
  - Formal Rural Boulevard Tree Planting Near the Property line
  - Informal Rural Boulevard Tree Planting Near the Property line
  - Boulevard Planting to Provide Screening
  - Restoration adjacent to the road within the Watercourse Area
  - Less Formalized tree planting where there is a Wider Corridor, more potential for varied species planting

- Informal planting on one side of Regional Road 57 and more formal planting where there is additional room available on the other side
- Closing

R. Trewin discussed examples of planting outside the road right of way which included: relocating a 300 m section of Urfe Creek in Pickering; road embankment stabilization and creek locating along a minor section of Petticoat Creek; and Victoria Street road widening and reconstruction through the Lynde Shores Wetland.

R. Trewin discussed the need to develop landscape standard guidelines for road designers, developers, local municipalities and Regional depot operations. He noted that CIMA, who have landscape architects and arborists, was hired to help develop these guidelines. He also noted that due to there being no landscape standards, common sense rules are then used which can include: planting salt tolerant trees and trees that are able to handle the exposure of drying hot and cold winds; low maintenance trees; and trees that do not block sight lines. R. Trewin emphasized that roads have a big impact on the environment and that transportation design is heavily involved with mitigation; protection; and enhancements.

R. Trewin responded to questions of the Committee regarding plantings being chosen for purposes beyond esthetics that would add value back to the environment; the percentage of trees that are ornamental; whether species at risk assessments are completed for larger projects; a general road right of way standard; succession planting; the distance required if farmers wanted to plant trees for windbreak purposes; the damage brine does to the plants and trees when sprayed on the roads in comparison to road salt; any potential for the budget to be increased from the current \$150,000; and the inoculation of emerald ash trees.

Concerns were raised for the need to develop a strategy for invasive species management and a clean equipment protocol to reduce further invasive species such as phragmites.

R. Trewin advised the Committee that DEAC would have the opportunity to provide their comments to the consultant who is developing the landscape standards guidelines. A. Bathe will liaise with R. Trewin regarding this future opportunity.

The Committee noted their interest in having a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer.

## **5. Items for Action**

### **A) DEAC Awards Volunteers**

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A. Bathe will send out the Google Document early next week for the Committee to select what positions they would be interested in volunteering for that evening. She reminded the Committee that the DEAC Awards are being held May 30, 2018 at 6:30 PM in RM-LLC.

A. Bathe advised that DEAC's recommendations for the Awards will be considered at the Committee of the Whole meeting on May 2, 2018 and subsequently Regional Council on May 9, 2018 for approval.

E-mail confirmations will be sent to the award winners and electronic invitations will be sent out April 30, 2018.

### **B) Vote to change May meeting date**

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It was the consensus of the Committee to reschedule the May 17, 2018 DEAC meeting to follow the DEAC awards being held May 30, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Moved by G. Carpentier, Seconded by M. Thompson,  
That the DEAC meeting of May 17, 2018 be rescheduled to May 30, 2018 at 8:30 PM in RM 1-A to immediately follow the DEAC Environmental Achievement Awards being held May 30, 2018 at 6:30 PM in RM-LLC.

CARRIED

## **6. Items for Information**

### **A) Commissioner's Report #2018-INFO-45 – Organics Management Methods**

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A copy of Report #2018-INFO-45 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the regulations for aerobic composting; septage regulations; potential risk of micro-plastics getting mixed in with waste; and reasons why the Region does not accept pet and hygiene waste in the current organics diversion program.

The Committee noted that they would be interested in having a presentation on Organics Management in the future.

B) Commissioner's Report #2018-INFO-46 – Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance Update

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-46 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

H. Manns advised that she would find out more information about the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farm Alliance for the Committee.

C) Notice of Study Commencement – Lynde Creek Master Drainage Plan Update, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Notice of Study Commencement – Lynde Creek Master Drainage Plan Update, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment from AECOM Canada Ltd. was received as Attachment #4 to the agenda.

A. Bathe noted that the Lynde Creek Master Drainage Plan is a Town of Whitby project in partnership with CLOCA.

Moved by C. Junop, Seconded by S. Clearwater,  
That Information Items A) to C) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

**7. Other Business**

A) DEAC Info Hub Example – Phragmites (Sample Topic)

H. Manns presented her idea for a project DEAC could participate in titled: DEAC Info Hub.

Highlights included:

- How hub would work
- Phragmites Page (Introduction, Reports, Methods Used & Follow-Up)
- How this would work
- Information Benefits
- DEAC Benefits

Discussion ensued regarding the logistics of having a DEAC Info Hub; how information would be compiled by the students with an appointed member of DEAC; and when it would be brought back to the Committee to be reviewed. Further discussion ensued regarding various topics that would be of interest to the Committee such as Meadowlarks and Phragmites.

Discussion also ensued regarding other ideas that DEAC could participate in such as a DEAC Tip of the Season; a Newsletter; a Did you Know?; and the possibility of posting tweets through Twitter.

A. Bathe advised she will email H. Manns' presentation to the Committee. She will also follow-up with Corporate Communications in order to discuss specific parameters that DEAC would need to work within regarding posting to the Regional website and using other social media outlets.

B) Livestock Production's Impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

C. Pettingill informed the Committee that after the Durham Climate Change Symposium she wrote to James Nowlan, Director, Climate Change Policy Branch, and Lisa Schultz, Senior Policy Coordinator, Climate Change Mitigation, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, regarding the role of livestock production missing from the agenda at the Durham Climate Change Symposium. C. Pettingill received a response from L. Schultz and advised she would email her response to the Committee.

C) Great Canadian Birdathon 2018

G. Carpentier announced that he will be taking part in the 2018 Great Canadian Birdathon. He asked that any members wishing to sponsor his participation contact him directly.

D) Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG)

S. Clearwater de-briefed the Committee on her Port Granby Tour and Orientation. Discussion ensued regarding the clean-up and long-term safe management of historic low level radioactive waste.

E) Ontario Envirothon

K. Murray announced that she and a group from her school would be participating in the Envirothon on Tuesday April 24, 2018 by planting trees.

F) A Future for the Lands: Economic impact of Remaining Pickering Federal Lands if Returned to Permanent Agriculture Study

Councillor Henry informed the Committee on a recent study completed by Land over Landings. It included information regarding extending farming leases to 30 years and creating agri-business and tourism in North Pickering.

G) Ajax Green Living Days

C. Junop informed the Committee that the Town of Ajax will be hosting a tree planting event Saturday April 21, 2018 from 10 AM - 1PM at the Ajax Waterfront.

H) Ontario BioBlitz 2018

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A. Bathe informed the Committee that the 2018 Ontario BioBlitz will be held at the Lynde Creek Watershed at Heber Downs Conservation Area. This event is open to the public with numerous activities available including information booths and displays; hands on species identification experience; kid friendly activities; and guided walks.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2018 starting at 8:30 PM in Boardroom 1-A, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, following the DEAC Environmental Achievement Awards.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by C. Pettingill,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

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H. Manns, Chair, Durham Environmental  
Advisory Committee

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S. Penak, Committee Clerk