

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 8, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM

Present: G. O'Connor, Regional Chair
Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
I. Bacon, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:38 PM
B. Howsam, Member at Large
J. Henderson, Oshawa
K. Kemp, Scugog
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: E. Bowman, Clarington
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
S. McEleney, Planner, Planning and Economic Development, left the meeting at 8:11 PM
R. Trewin, Project Manager, Transportation Design, Works, left the meeting at 8:45 PM
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on April 10, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Delegation

A) Ian McDougall, Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee (DATC)

I. McDougall provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee and possible collaboration with DAAC on the Share the Road Discussion. He also presented a YouTube video regarding the Share the Road initiative from the Town of Blue Mountains.

I. McDougall stated that the Durham Trail Coordinating Committee (DTCC) recently updated their mandate to include active transportation. He stated that the key theme of the collaboration between DAAC and DTCC/DATC is the share the road discussion and synergies between slow moving vehicles, being bikes and farm vehicles.

I. McDougall advised that there is no regional policy with regards to cyclists and farm vehicles sharing the road but that it is becoming a regional priority. He stated that staff has looked at other jurisdictions with regards to what they have done and has requested data from Traffic Operations to determine the overlap between road incidents involving cyclists and farm vehicles. He advised that discussions are taking place with regards to how police can enforce this initiative; whether it is a regional or municipal priority; and cyclists on rural roads as a tourism issue.

Detailed discussion ensued with regards to cyclists getting upset when tractors are too wide and they have to pull over or stop to let the tractors go by; cyclists riding during busiest times of the day; cyclists need to be aware that there are farm vehicles on the roads as well; the possibility of designating certain roads as bicycle routes; clarification regarding the designation of the Greenbelt bicycle route; whether bike routes are reviewed after they have been created to determine whether changes are warranted; and motorists being an issue with regards to sharing the road as well. It was suggested that education be a priority and that brochures and information pamphlets be provided to cycling clubs, police, and other organizations as needed.

4. Presentations

A) Ron Trewin, Regional Works Department – Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects

R. Trewin provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Regional Municipality of Durham – 2018 Capital Road Program and Forecast.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview
- Condition of the Road Network
- Capital Road Program Growth
- 2018 Capital Road Program – Distribution by Project/Program Type
- Priority Corridors in 2019-2027 Forecast
 - Brock Rd. from Bayly St. to Whitevale Rd.
 - Harmony Rd. from Taunton Rd. to Conlin Rd.
 - Widening of the Bayly/Victoria/Bloor corridor
 - Thickson Rd. from Wentworth St. to Hwy 407
 - Gibb St./Olive Ave. from East of Stevenson Rd. to Ritson Rd.
- Proposed 2018-2022 Road Rehabilitation Projects
- 2018-2022 Structures
- Highway 407 East Related Projects
- Seaton – Region Road Network
- 2018 Rural Road Rehabilitation Projects
 - Regional Road 12/Lake Ridge Rd. Intersection Roundabout
 - Regional Road 21 from Marsh Hill Rd. to Hwy 12, 3.5 km
 - Regional Road 8 from Mill Run Gate to 0.4 km west of Conc. Rd. 4, 3.0 km
 - Region Road 23 Lake Ridge Rd. from 1.6 km north of Hwy. 7 to Conc. 9 (Reg. Rd 5) 4.5 km
 - Region Road 20 from 250 m East of Regional Road 57 to West of Middle Road 1.35 km
 - Region Road 14 from Liberty St. from north of Concession Rd. 4, 1.9 km
 - Region Road 57 from south of Conc. Rd. 3 to 0.13 km north of Conc. Rd. 4, 2.2 km
- 2018 Intersection Project with future Rural Road Reconstruction
- Design Considerations
- What's New:
 - Roundabouts
 - Rural Driveway Entrances
 - Road Right-of-Way Purchases
 - Bicycle Accessible Shoulders
 - Wildlife Passages
 - Drainage Improvements and Climate Change

R. Trewin advised that many forecasted road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects have higher levels of complexity due to: geometric design requirement for vertical and horizontal alignment; construction of turning lanes; upgrading to full regional standards including wider lanes and shoulders and improved drainage ditches; roadside safety improvements; land acquisition and utility relocation; and permitting requirements. He advised that many of the forecasted work locations are planned over a multi-year timeframe.

R. Trewin also advised that:

- recommendations from DAAC were considered in the design of the proposed roundabouts and the roundabouts will include semi-mountable curbs around the centre circle as well as on the outside of the roundabout entries, and that detailed design will include reviewing the placement of traffic signs;
- recommendations from DAAC were taken into consideration with regards to the width and radius of rural driveway entrances;
- regional rural road upgrades are starting to receive more funding which will lead to right-of-way widening property purchases;
- the Region will be paving rural road shoulders where feasible to make the roads more bicycle accessible;
- wildlife passage and barriers are beginning to be installed in certain areas; and
- the Region is reviewing culvert sizes for larger rainfall and spring runoff events as a result of climate change.

R. Trewin responded to questions regarding the possibility of making the wildlife culverts higher to allow snow mobiles to go through. The Committee requested that the 2018 Capital Road Program and Forecast be provided to the area municipalities.

5. Discussion Items

A) Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Document Comments

K. Kilbourne provided a review of the draft Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidance Documents and a verbal update regarding consultation with the Agricultural Community. No further comments were provided and it was stated that the committee will continue to monitor the matter and release of the final guidance document.

B) Draft Development Charges By-law Comments

There were no comments provided with regards to this item.

C) Broadband Strategy Phase One Comments

It was noted that some members had difficulty accessing the link to the report as provided on the Agenda. It was stated that connectivity remains an ongoing issue.

D) Climate Change Agricultural Task Force Update

K. Kilbourne advised that the workplan has been finalized and the next meeting of the Climate Change Agricultural Task Force will be September 17, 2018. She advised that the Task Force will be working with students from the University of Guelph to assess risks and vulnerabilities for agriculture based on climate projections and investigate potential program options for addressing climate adaptation. She stated that there is also a list of stakeholders and groups to be consulted and that the proposed programs will be presented at the Task Force meeting in September.

E) 2018 DAAC Farm Tour

Discussion ensued with regards to the speaker and it was confirmed that Bruce Vandenberg be contacted to speak at the Farm Tour.

F) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

K. Kilbourne provided the following update on behalf of N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

- With regards to the Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project, 62 interviews have been conducted. Staff is reaching out to a few specific businesses with the option to complete a pdf version of the survey on their own, to be followed up by a phone call. The completed surveys are being entered into the data collection system.
- Applications for the 2018 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence are being accepted until May 25, 2018. Eligible applicants include primary producers and farmers, food processors and agri-food organizations.
- The Region of Durham Spring Farmers Market will be held on June 8, 2018 from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Please advise staff of any interested vendors.
- Doug Griffiths, the author of, "13 Ways to Kill Your Community Event" will be at the Trinity United Church on May 23, 2018 from 5:30 PM to 10 PM. His book provides a unique perspective on economic development in rural small towns.

6. Information Items

A) Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update (2018-INFO-54)

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-54 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

B) Provincial Decisions on the Regional Natural Heritage System and
Agricultural System (2018-INFO-57)

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-57 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Provincial Decisions on the Regional Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System for the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

C) Municipal Comprehensive review of the Durham Regional Official Plan
(2018-COW-93)

A copy of Report #2018-COW-93 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding "Envision Durham": The Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Durham Regional Official Plan was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by G. Taylor, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk