

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 11, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM

Present: E. Bowman, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
J. Henderson, Oshawa
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: I. Bacon, Member at Large

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by D. Risebrough
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on November 13, 2018 be adopted.
CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Discussion Items

A) DAAC Membership (2019-2022)

K. Kilbourne, Z. Cohoon, and former Regional Chair O'Connor, distributed Certificates of Appreciation to DAAC Members in recognition of member contributions to the last term of Council. DAAC members, E. Bowman, I. Bacon, and J. Henderson indicated they would be resigning from DAAC and were thanked for their contributions over their tenure.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – N. Rutherford

N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, provided a verbal report by way of telephone conference call. She advised that:

- The Region's Agricultural Strategy will be updated. A consultant has been retained. She requested a member of DAAC participate in the Steering Committee for the project. F. Puterbough volunteered to participate.
- Data has been analyzed for the Region's Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project and a report on the findings is being prepared. There were two sessions held at the Scugog Community Hall on December 4, 2018 to present the results of the study. K. Kemp attended as a DAAC representative.
- The Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA) feasibility study and business/marketing plan for an Agri-food Education and Event Centre is currently underway.
- N. Rutherford will be coordinating a tour of North Durham for the newly elected Regional Chair John Henry and the Region's new Chief Administrative Officer, Elaine Baxter-Trahair, and would like agricultural businesses to be a part of this tour.

C) Agricultural Sector Climate Change Strategy Update

K. Kilbourne advised that many comments were received during the first round of stakeholder consultation. The consultation identified potential risks to the agricultural sector as a result of climate change, as well as identified preliminary potential program options for addressing climate adaptation. She indicated that a Draft Strategy will be circulated to all stakeholders on December 21, 2018 with a commenting deadline of January 31, 2019.

D) 2019 DAAC Farm Tour

The Committee requested that K. Kilbourne look into setting a date for the 2019 Farm Tour and report back at the next meeting on potential date options in September. September 12th was suggested as a preferred date.

4. Other Business

A) Oversized Burn Permits

Discussion ensued with regards to issues farmers have been experiencing in relation to oversized burn permits and variances in charges and definitions across area municipalities. Committee members stressed the importance of having a uniformed definition of what an oversized agricultural burn permits, consistent charges and proper alignment of by-laws and policies at the local level to ensure the agricultural community is consulted and considered. A sub-committee was formed consisting of B. Winter, H. Schillings, K. Kemp, and G. Taylor to review the matter and possibly have a DAAC representative address the Fire Chiefs at one of their upcoming meetings.

B) Port Authority at Oshawa Harbour

It was identified that there is interest by the Committee in resuming conversations with the Port Authority at Oshawa Harbour to enable the agricultural community to utilize the Port.

C) Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018

The Committee requested further information on the Province's proposed Bill 66. K. Kilbourne advised that Regional Staff are preparing a report for Committee and Council approval with comments on the proposed Bill and will advise the committee once the report has been made available.

D) Durham Community Energy Plan

D. Risebrough provided an update on the Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP). It was requested that the Committee receive a presentation from B. Kelly, Manager of Sustainability, as the DCEP progresses. It was also expressed that there is a need to ensure that accurate information is provided to the public on greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as well as the benefits the agricultural sector provides to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions including carbon sequestration.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

6. Adjournment

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

K. Kilbourne, Senior Planner