

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 15, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
J. Henderson, Oshawa
G. Hight, Regional Councillor
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

Absent: I. Bacon, Member at Large
D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor
E. Bowman, Clarington
B. Winter, Ajax

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development left the meeting at 9:07 PM
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Election of Officers for 2019

K. Kilbourne called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That Z. Cohoon be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Smith,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Kilbourne asked if Z. Cohoon wished to stand. Z. Cohoon indicated he would stand.

Z. Cohoon was acclaimed as the Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

K. Kilbourne called for nominations for the two Vice-Chair positions of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by Councillor K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Smith,
That T. Watpool be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by Councillor K. Kennedy, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That F. Puterbough be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

K. Kilbourne asked if T. Watpool and F. Puterbough wished to stand. T. Watpool and F. Puterbough indicated they would stand.

T. Watpool and F. Puterbough were acclaimed as the first and second Vice-Chairs, respectively, of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on December 11, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Presentations

A) Kristy Kilbourne, Senior Planner, Durham Region Municipal Comprehensive Review, Agriculture and Rural Policy and Mapping Update

K. Kilbourne provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding Envision Durham: Agriculture/Rural Policy and Mapping. She stated that Envision Durham, 2041 is a municipal comprehensive review of the Durham Regional Official Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Envision Durham Framework
- Work to Date – Agriculture/Rural Policy and Mapping Update
- Regional Agricultural/Rural System
 - Prime Agricultural Areas
 - Major Open Space Areas
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Lands
 - Rural Settlement Areas
 - Regional Nodes
 - Aggregate Resource Extraction Areas
 - Specific Policy Areas
- Overview of Trends – Rural/Agricultural
- Provincial Plan Conformity
 - 2014 Provincial Policy Statement
 - 2017 Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
 - Guidance Documents
 - Updates to Minimum Distance Separation (2017)
- Refinements to Prime Agricultural/Major Open Space Areas Policies and Mapping based on updated Provincial Policy and the Provincial Agricultural System
- Updates to Rural Lot Creation Policies
- Consideration for updated Minimum Distance Separation Formulae and Guidelines
- Updates to Rural Settlement Areas policy and mapping
- Proposed Approach to Refining the Agricultural System
- Agri-food Network
- Next Steps: Agriculture/Rural Timeline

K. Kilbourne stated that that the Envision Framework consists of the following seven internal staff teams: Growth Management; Housing; Agriculture/Rural; Environment/Greenlands; Climate Change and Sustainability; Transportation; and Engagement.

K. Kilbourne reviewed the work that has been done to date and provided an overview of the following trends that have impacted the Region's agricultural/rural areas since the last comprehensive review, including:

- Modernization and diversification of farming;
- Introduction of Provincial Plans;
- Clean Water Act – Source Protection;
- Urban boundary expansions/Rapid urbanization;
- Urban agriculture;
- Renewable energy;
- Establishment of Rouge National Urban Park; and
- Changes in Specific Policy Areas.

K. Kilbourne provided the following questions to DAAC for their consideration and input:

- Are there any trends that have been missed that should be reviewed and considered in the agricultural/rural context?
- Are there specific policies warranted in the Regional Official Plan for certain types of uses?

K. Kilbourne advised that the Discussion Paper is expected to be released in March 2019 and will be seeking DAAC's input.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Greenbelt Plan; clarification on how compatibility will be addressed; homes built on properties close to farms; incorporation of a 'right to farm' clause; creation of an education pamphlet for new rural residents; consideration of maximum residential house sizes; importance of community education and outreach; application of MDS as it relates to urban area boundary expansions; and agricultural assessments along the Highway 407 corridor.

5. Discussion Items

A) DAAC Membership (2019-2022) – K. Kilbourne

K. Kilbourne stated that letters were sent to all municipal councils requesting they nominate municipal representatives for the Region's advisory committees from the list of applicants. As there were no applicants for the Municipality of Clarington, Clarington council has forwarded the request for nomination to the Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington for their input. She advised that the Region expects to receive area municipal nominations by the end of January.

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

N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, provided the following update:

- With regards to the update of the Region's Agricultural Strategy, there will be two workshops tailored to the north municipalities. She also advised that a consultant has been hired to assist with the consultation process.
- With regards to the Durham Region Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project, the consultant is analyzing the data from the responses received. She advised that the leadership team has reviewed the first draft and is in the process of finalizing the report and recommendations for the action plan.
- Durham Farm Connections will be hosting their annual Grade 3 Event on April 2 to 4, 2019 at the Luther Vipond Memorial Arena in Brooklin.

- Durham Farm Fresh hosted their Harvest Table event at Nature's Bounty Farm in fall of 2018. She stated that the event was followed by questions related to by-law enforcement. She stated that as a result, there will be a workshop on March 19, 2019 to discuss farm business events and guidelines.
- She encouraged members to follow the Durham Region Agriculture & Rural Affairs Twitter account.

C) Draft Agricultural Sector Climate Change Strategy – K. Kilbourne

A copy of the draft Regional Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda. K. Kilbourne advised that staff is looking for feedback on the draft strategy as part of the second round of consultation. She advised that feedback will be incorporated into the final draft Regional Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will be presented to the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change and for Regional Council endorsement later this spring. She advised that comments and feedback are due by January 31, 2019.

D) Draft Durham Region Broadband Strategy – K. Kilbourne

A copy of the draft Durham Region Broadband Strategy was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda. K. Kilbourne inquired whether there were feedback and comments from the committee. It was stated there is a need for better broadband infrastructure throughout the agricultural community.

E) 2019 DAAC Farm Tour

K. Kilbourne advised that the potential date of September 12, 2019 for the 2019 Farm Tour has to be confirmed by Legislative Services staff. A sub-committee consisting of D. Risebrough, K. Kemp, F. Puterbough, T. Watpool, B. Smith and Z. Cohoon was formed to begin discussions regarding the 2019 Farm Tour.

F) Feedback on Municipal Fire Regulations

K. Kilbourne advised that she has contacted Chief Speed of Whitby Fire and Emergency Services regarding efficient ways to reach out to local fire chiefs with regards to consistency around issuance of burn permits and variances in charges and regulations across area municipalities. She stated that the sub-committee will be advised once a response is received.

6. Information Items

- A) Notice of Final Decision with respect to Regional Official Plan Amendment #172

A copy of the Notice of Final Decision with regards to Regional Official Plan Amendment #172 was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

- B) #2019-P-** Decision Meeting Report Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, Mike Kennedy, Township of Uxbridge, File OPA 2018-003

A copy of Report #2019-P-**, Decision Meeting Report regarding Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, Mike Kennedy, Township of Uxbridge, File OPA 2018-003 was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

- A) Nutrient Management General Regulation Amendment Proposal

A copy of the Nutrient Management General Regulation Amendment Proposal was provided to members subsequent to the Agenda being provided. Discussion ensued with regards to the committee not being able to provide feedback as a committee within the commenting period of January 8 to February 22, 2019. K. Kilbourne advised that members were welcome to provide individual comments if they choose to, in order to meet the commenting deadline.

- B) Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018

K. Kilbourne provided a copy of Report #2019-COW-6 regarding Durham's Response to Bill 66, Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018, of the Chief Administrative Officer, as the Committee requested further information on the Province's proposed Bill 66 at the December meeting. She advised that the report will be considered at the January 16th Committee of the Whole meeting.

- C) Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017

K. Kilbourne advised that the Province is seeking feedback on a proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017 to address policies seen as potential barriers to the development of housing, job creation and business attraction. She advised that further information will be provided at the February meeting.

D) Passing of Z. Cohoon's Father

The Committee expressed their condolences to Z. Cohoon on the passing of his father, Dr. Bill Cohoon.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by K. Kennedy,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk