

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 9, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:34 PM

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
G. Hight, Regional Councillor
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
G. Taylor, Pickering
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
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the following minutes be adopted:

- Minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on January 15, 2019; and
- Minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee held on March 12, 2019; and

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

At this time, Z. Cohoon introduced T. Barrie to the committee and requested that committee members take a few moments to introduce themselves.

3. Presentations

A) Bronwynne Wilton, Wilton Consulting Group, Durham Agricultural Strategy Update

B. Wilton, Wilton Consulting Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Agricultural Strategy Update. She stated that the Agricultural Strategy is a tool for the Region to help the sector take advantage of emerging opportunities to support the long-term growth of agriculture and agri-food in Durham. She provided an overview of engagement to date and advised of an upcoming community engagement session scheduled for April 16, 2019 in Sunderland.

B. Wilton stated that with regards to the current strategy, the following are percentages of respondents who indicated that the current guiding principles are relevant or very relevant:

- 92% - attract, retain and expand agriculture and agri-food businesses
- 92% - promote outreach and education
- 85% - support an agricultural labour force focused on labour force development
- 90% - maintain a supportive policy environment

B. Wilton stated that the vision and guiding principles of the current strategy can be improved by incorporating the importance of the agri-food sector in Durham as an economic driver, recognizing Durham as a leader in fostering innovation in agriculture, and evidence-based decision making. She stated that the following trends have been identified as trends which may limit agriculture in Durham in the next 5 years:

- Access to affordable land
- Regulatory requirements
- Access to labour for primary production and processing jobs
- Access to capital
- Access to labour for technical and business management jobs
- Urbanization
- Lack of awareness or understanding of agriculture and food by all levels of government
- Restrictive land-use policies
- Aging demographics of the agricultural sector
- Lack of consistency and collaboration between municipalities on agriculture policies, zoning and permits

- Lack of consumer interest in or knowledge of local agriculture and agri-food sector
- Impact of trade deals for agriculture and agri-food investment
- Challenges entering new or emerging markets
- Access to high-speed reliable internet or broadband services
- Infrastructure needs for agriculture and agri-food
- Access to food processing
- Access to storage
- Access to farm supply/service businesses

B. Wilton also advised of the following trends in opportunities for Durham's agricultural sector:

- Policies that protect agricultural land
- Proximity to market
- Municipal, regional and provincial policies to support innovation and sustainability in the sector
- Agri-tourism
- Financial incentives to support agricultural and/or agri-food businesses
- Proximity to innovation centres with new and emerging technology capacity
- Support for outreach and education
- Investment in infrastructure

B. Wilton provided statistics related to: emerging commodity specific opportunities in Durham; strategic investments and opportunities to explore in Durham; and themes to support the Agricultural Strategy 2019-2024.

B. Wilton responded to questions with regards to properties that are in higher demand for cannabis production; use of the Oshawa port for moving products; ways the strategy can be used by the Region and other organizations as efficiently as possible; strategy needs to be worked into the official plan; effective implementation of the strategy; effect of the strategy on the Greenbelt; and alignment with the regional broadband strategy.

The committee was asked to provide comments for consideration on the update of the Agricultural Strategy to B. Wilton by completing a handout.

4. Discussion Items

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

N. Rutherford provided a brief update with regards to the following:

- There is a Durham Agricultural Strategy consultation scheduled for April 16, 2016 at the Sunderland Town Hall from 6 PM to 8 PM. The event will provide an opportunity for discussion about the update to the Durham Agricultural Strategy and an overview of the Agriculture and Rural System Discussion Paper, a component of the Region's municipal comprehensive review and update of the Regional Official Plan, and how they provide synergies for agriculture and agri-food sector from a planning and economic development perspective.
- An open house is being held on April 25, 2019 at the Solina Community Centre where a consultant team will present the preliminary findings of a feasibility study report with regards to potential site locations for an agri-food education and event centre in Durham Region. Any interested members were asked to RSVP to Karen Yellowlees by April 17, 2019.
- The 2019 Canadian Plowing Championship is being held in Sunderland on October 2, 3 and 4, 2019.
- The Teeny Tiny Summit is being held at the Orono Arena and Community Centre on April 11, 2019 from 9 AM to 3 PM.

B) 2019 DAAC Farm Tour

The following update was provided with regards to the 2019 DAAC Farm Tour:

- A site visit is scheduled for April 30, 2019
- Discussions have been had with Willowtree Farms with regards to the logistics of the Farm Tour and catering
- Guest speaker for the event has been confirmed
- Picnic tables to be confirmed

C) Durham Community Energy Plan

This item was deferred to the next DAAC meeting on May 14, 2019.

D) Feedback on Municipal Fire Regulations

K. Kilbourne and Z. Cohoon advised that they attended a meeting with the Fire Chiefs from Durham's area municipalities to discuss the committee's concerns related to municipal fire regulations. G. Taylor also attended. K. Kilbourne stated that she has followed up with Chief Speed and Chief Weir who advised that they are in the process of reviewing and comparing the municipal by-laws and plan to report back to the next Fire Chiefs meeting. K. Kilbourne advised that Chief Speed and Chief Weir will provide an update once they have had a chance to review and consider the matter further.

E) 2019 DAAC Workplan and DAAC Terms of Reference

Copies of the Draft 2019 Workplan and Draft Terms of Reference of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee were provided as Attachments #3 and #4 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Draft 2019 Workplan. It was the consensus of the committee to make the following amendments:

- That section 2. b. be amended to read as follows, “Continue to work with Regional Departments including Planning and Economic Development, Works, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.”;
- That section 2. e. be amended by adding the following words at the end of the sentence, “, including presentations to area municipal council on matters of interest where appropriate.”;
- That section 3. b. be amended by adding the words “update and” before the word “implementation”;
- That section 3. d. be amended by deleting the words “development and” before the word “implementation”;
- That the 11th bullet in section 4. be amended by deleting the following, “(e.g. role of OSPCA)”;
- That the last bullet in section 4. be amended by adding the following to the end, “(e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, By-laws and Permits)”.

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by H. Schillings,

That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the Draft 2019 Workplan of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, as amended, be adopted.

CARRIED

K. Kilbourne provided a handout with regards to a study completed by Sara Epp, Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and Friends of the Greenbelt. The study sought to understand how Agricultural Advisory Committees function and provided lessons from the experiences of staff, councillors, farmers and members. The handout summarized insights that the committee can consider when reviewing their Terms of Reference and Workplan in the future.

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Smith,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to
Regional Council:

That the Draft Terms of Reference for the Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Information Items

A) 2019-P-3 Proposed Durham Region Broadband Strategy – Connecting our
Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region

A copy of Report #2019-P-3, Proposed Durham Region Broadband Strategy,
“Connecting our Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region”,
was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

B) 2019-P-4 Envision Durham – Public Engagement Launch

A copy of Report #2019-P-4, Envision Durham – Public Engagement
Launch, was provided as Attachment #6 to the Agenda and received.

C) 2019-P-5 Region of Durham Draft Woodland Conservation and Management
By-law

A copy of Report #2019-P-5, Region of Durham Draft Woodland
Conservation and Management By-law, was provided as Attachment #7 to
the Agenda and received.

D) Notice of Adoption, Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 173, Mike
Kennedy

A copy of the Notice of Adoption with Respect to Amendment 173 to the
Durham Regional Official Plan Section 17(23) of the Planning Act, was
provided as Attachment #8 to the Agenda and received.

E) 2019-P-12 Envision Durham Agriculture and Rural System Discussion Paper

A copy of Report #2019-P-12, Envision Durham – Agriculture and Rural
System Discussion Paper, was provided as Attachment #9 to the Agenda
and received.

F) Correspondence to the Minister of MMAH re: Durham’s response to
Proposed Amendment 1 to the Growth Plan and 2019-P-6

A copy of the correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Report #2019-P-6 regarding Durham Region's response to Proposed Amendment #1 to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2017, Regulatory Proposals under the Planning Act and Places to Grow Act, and a Proposed Framework for Provincially Significant Employment Zones, was provided as Attachments #10 and #11 to the Agenda and received.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

8. Adjournment

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk