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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 20, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 20, 2019 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM.

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
S. Clearwater, Whitby
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:14 PM
R. Dickinson, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa
D. Sallans, Member at Large
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:02 PM
D. Upadhyay, Youth Member

Absent: C. Duffy, Post-Secondary Member
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
K. Murray, Member at Large
M. Thompson, Member at Large
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby

Staff

Present: A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the agenda for the June 20, 2019 DEAC meeting, as
presented be approved.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by D. Sallans, Seconded by B. Foxton,
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,
May 16, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Aneesah Luqman, Project Planner, re: Envision Durham – Sustainability & Climate Change

A. Luqman provided a Presentation titled: “Climate Change & Sustainability Discussion Paper”.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Roadmap
- Envision Durham
- Current Climate Change & Sustainability Policies
- Energy Efficiency (Section 2 – Environment and Section 8 – Urban System)
- Air Quality (Section 2- Environment)
- Other Policy Areas
 - Compact Communities
 - Climate Change Mitigation
 - Transportation Demand Management
- 4.0 The Provincial Climate Change Story
- Provincial Plans Conformity
- Regional Initiatives
- Provincial Plans Conformity
 - Required Policies
 - Additional Considerations
- Trends
- Policy Considerations
 - Built form
 - Transportation
 - Energy
 - Natural environment
- Key Themes
 - Adaptation
 - Mitigation
- Land Use and Built Form
 - Ground related housing, and compact and complete communities
- Transportation
- Energy
- Natural Environment
- Policy Areas

- Consultation and Engagement

A. Luqman provided the following questions to the Committee for discussion:

- Are there any additional policy areas you think should be included in the discussion?
- Do you have examples that would help supplement these policy areas?

A. Luqman responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there is a tree maintenance component of the discussion paper; whether there is a section for the three Northern municipalities with respect to the Smart Commute Program; and the ability to change an enabling policy into a requirement. A. Luqman stated that it can sometimes be more effective to have an enabling policy than a requirement that may be appealed, potentially resulting in no policy at all on the matter.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding:

- The counter-productive notion of building high density developments but still wanting the trees to grow. There is not enough green space being preserved;
- Large developments and the attached parking lots resulting in more heat islands;
 - Short storey buildings as you move out of the city
- Concerns with what powers municipalities have to ensure developers are doing what they can to combat climate change;
- Compact and complete communities – everything in one place
 - An example – Barcelona, Spain: vehicle lanes, bicycle lanes, green courtyards, etc.;
 - Target the new developments
- Getting off the North/South East/West grid (District Energy) so that the road grid is in favour of a 45-degree offset to more equally distribute the solar gain across all homes and businesses;
- Developers being required to plant C4 plants (roughly 55 species) that re-use carbon dioxide;
- More carbon beneficial end states; and
- Industrial areas landscaping in a way that benefits the environment, such as creating butterfly gardens and planting pollinator friendly flowers.

A. Luqman advised that comments on the Climate Change & Sustainability Discussion Paper are requested by August 5, 2019.

In response to a question, A. Luqman advised that she would follow-up regarding whether the same protocols were used to determine the surface temperatures of Durham Region from 1997 compared to 2017 and would email the comparative maps out to the Committee.

A. Luqman also advised that she would follow-up with respect to the standards to follow for green roofs, and if any municipalities have green roof policies in place.

5. Items for Action

A) Establish Environmental Awards Subcommittee

A copy of the DEAC Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee Overview was received as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

A. Luqman advised that the Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee undertakes the following tasks: reviewing nominations; recommending Awards recipients; planning the Awards reception with support from the DEAC staff liaison; and securing volunteers for the reception.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of reviewing the applicants and selecting the winners of each category.

Moved by D. Upadhyay, Seconded by R. Dickinson,
That S. Clearwater and G. Layton be appointed to the sub-committee to review the nominations received for the Environmental Achievement Awards.

CARRIED

It was suggested that the sub-committee meet at 6:00 PM prior to the start of the regular DEAC meetings.

B) Establish Subcommittee for the development of a Climate Change Resiliency Homeowners' Guide

In response to a question, G. Carpentier provided clarification regarding what the purpose of a Climate Change Resiliency Homeowners' Guide would be. He explained that the guide would be roughly 15-20 pages and would serve as a resource to help homeowners understand there are things that they can do, in and around their home and gardens, that will have a positive impact on climate change. The guide would not be a definitive list but would include certain subject areas, and resources for further information.

If any Committee members have ideas or topics with respect to the development of the guide, they can be sent to A. Luqman.

Moved by G. Layton, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That J. Cuthbertson, S. Clearwater, K. Lui, G. Carpentier, D.
Sallans, and D. Upadhyay be appointed to the sub-committee to
discuss the development of a Climate Change Resiliency
Homeowners' Guide.

CARRIED

It was suggested that the sub-committee meet at 6:00 PM prior to the start of
the regular DEAC meetings.

C) Process for DEAC feedback on Envision Durham

A. Luqman enquired how the Committee would like to move forward with
providing input on the Envision Durham Municipal Comprehensive Review
(MCR) process. She stated that with multiple discussion papers coming out
throughout the course of the year, she wondered if the Committee wanted to
proceed with individual comments or form a subcommittee to organize their
input.

Discussion ensued regarding whether comments should be submitted
individually or as a group. It was the consensus of the Committee to not form
a subcommittee.

6. Items for Discussion/Input

A) Envision Durham Environment/Greenland's Stakeholder Consultation

A copy of the Envision Durham Environment/Greenland's Stakeholder
Consultation List was received as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

A. Luqman advised that Planning staff are looking to reach out to various
stakeholder groups and wondered if any were missing from the Envision
Durham Environment/Greenland's Stakeholder Consultation List. The
Committee discussed groups such as Community Advocacy Groups (e.g.
Land Over Landings), and the various Nature Clubs.

Any further stakeholders missing from the Envision Durham
Environment/Greenland's Stakeholder Consultation List can be sent to A.
Luqman.

B) Environmental Advisory Committee Symposium

A. Luqman questioned whether the Committee thought there would be any
value in DEAC organizing an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)
Symposium, where all Durham EACs would be invited, and the Environment
and Greenland's Discussion Paper would be presented.

A. Luqman advised that the usual process with respect to receiving
comments on discussion papers is to circulate the discussion paper through
DEAC, and then the municipal representatives on DEAC would circulate it to

their local EACs. If a presentation was requested, then DEAC would make the necessary arrangements.

It was the consensus of the Committee to wait on hosting an EAC Symposium at this time.

7. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report #2019-INFO-28 – Monitoring of Land Division Committee Decisions of the April 15, 2019 Meeting

A copy of Report #2019-INFO-28 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #4 to the agenda.

B) Commissioner's Report #2019-INFO-33 – Commissioner's Delegated Planning Approval Authority, and Summary of Planning activity in the First Quarter of 2019

A copy of Report #2019-INFO-33 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #5 to the agenda.

Concern was raised with respect to the number of high-density housing applications.

C) Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington, re: Lakeshore East GO Train Extension Resolution

A copy of the Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington, re: Lakeshore East GO Train Extension Resolution was received as Attachment #6 to the agenda.

J. Cuthbertson advised that he attended the information session hosted by Metrolinx in Bowmanville that discussed the four options with regards to the route of the proposed Bowmanville GO train extension. He stated it was well attended but many were confused about what exactly was going on. The issue appeared to be that there is not enough money to develop the best route.

D) Correspondence from the City of Oshawa, re: Lakeshore East GO Train Extension Through Central Oshawa to Bowmanville along the CP Rail Line

A copy of the Correspondence from the City of Oshawa, re: Lakeshore East GO Train Extension Through Central Oshawa to Bowmanville along the CP Rail Line was received as Attachment #7 to the agenda.

- E) Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington, re: Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority – Funding

A copy of the Correspondence from the Municipality of Clarington, re: Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority – Funding was received as Attachment #8 to the agenda.

- F) Commissioner’s Report #2019-P-29 – Durham Environmental Advisory Committee 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Workplan, File A01-37

A copy of Report #2019-P-29 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #9 to the agenda.

- G) Commissioner’s Report #2019-P-31 – Envision Durham – Growth Management & Urban System Discussion Paper

A copy of Report #2019-P-31 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #10 to the agenda.

Moved by G. Layton, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That Information Items 7A) to 7G) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

7. **Other Business**

- A) Wildflower Seed Packet Distribution

D. Upadhyay informed the Committee that his school recently distributed 100 wildflower seed packets to promote pollinator awareness and wondered if that was possible at the Regional level. A. Luqman advised she could help D. Upadhyay create a framework for the possible wildflower seed distribution.

The Committee discussed the possibility of wildflower seed packets being distributed along side the Region’s Annual Compost Giveaway Days. Further discussion ensued regarding where the Committee would get the supply of wildflower packets. J. Cuthbertson stated that the Ontario Seed Company Ltd. in Kitchener, Ontario sells a variety of seed mixes and that he would look into pricing and quantities.

A. Luqman advised she would look into whether DEAC has a budget that could be used to pay for a set amount of wildflower packets and get back to the Committee.

8. **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 starting at 7:00 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham
Environmental Advisory Committee

S. Penak, Committee Clerk