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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 8, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 8, 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
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
T. Barrie, Clarington attended the meeting at 7:35 PM
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering

Also

Present: G. Highet, Regional Councillor

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor was absent due to municipal business
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax

Staff

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Howsam, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on September 10, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Presentations

A) Urban Strategies Inc. – Growth Management Consultation for Envision Durham – Melanie Hare

M. Walton, Partner, Planscape, E. Davidge, Associate, Urban Strategies Inc., E. Bang, Senior Consultant, Watson & Associates, and M. Hare, Partner, Urban Strategies Inc., provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Growth Management Consultation for Envision Durham.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Region of Durham Growth Management Study
- Our Team
- Project Understanding
- The Municipal Comprehensive Review
- Envision Durham
- Our Approach to Land Needs Assessment
 - Integrating Both Supply & Demand
 - Key Inputs and Steps
- Discussion Questions

M. Walton stated that they are working on the Growth Management Study and are having discussions with stakeholders across the Region to get a perspective on Durham from today out to 2041. She stated that they are looking to manage growth and economic prosperity and advised that the Growth Management Consultation is part of the larger Municipal Comprehensive Review.

M. Walton advised that they have assembled a team that understands how to plan, design and build cities. That team includes subject matter and technical experts in infrastructure, transit, agriculture, natural heritage, tourism and retail, all aspects that need to be explored in growth management. She stated that Durham Region's population and employment is expected to grow to 1.2 million people and 430,000 jobs by 2041. She stated that the growth management study needs to be more than a technical equation about land needs and that the goal is to position the Region to attract and accommodate growth in a manner that creates prosperous, complete and sustainable communities.

M. Walton stated that they have been tasked to create the following 5 core deliverables:

1. Intensification Strategy
2. Employment Strategy

3. Designated Greenfill Analysis
4. Housing Forecast
5. Long Term Forecast Summary

M. Walton requested that the Committee provide feedback on the following four discussion questions:

1. What are the most pressing growth issues facing the agriculture sector in Durham today?
2. What are the most promising trends in the agricultural sector in Durham today?
3. Are there any major agriculture infrastructure investments or initiatives about which we should be aware?
4. From the agricultural perspective, what does successful regional growth management look like...in 2041?

Discussion ensued with regards to: transportation and movement of goods; processing of agricultural goods; location of processing facilities; access to the Hamilton/Oshawa Port Authority; high development costs; growth challenges; rural broadband; underserviced lands; and consistency of zoning policies across the Region.

4. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

There was no update to be provided. S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism, introduced himself to the Committee.

B) 2019 DAAC Farm Tour

Discussion ensued with regards to the 2019 Farm Tour and the following comments were made:

- The 2019 tour was a huge success
- Committee members need to start thinking of themes and locations for the next tour
- People seemed to appreciate the diversity and eco-tourism theme at Willowtree Farms
- Important to keep updating the guest list

C) Envision Durham Update

Discussion ensued with regards to the Envision Durham Update. It was the consensus of the committee that staff be advised that the committee does not feel that the Region needs to review any more policies with regards to septage.

D) Report #2019-P-40 OPA 2019-006 Werrcroft Farms Ltd. Public Meeting Report

A copy of Report #2019-P-40 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., to permit the severance of a dwelling and associated accessory buildings rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Municipality of Clarington, File: OPA 2019-006.

CARRIED

5. Information Items

A) Report #2019-P-41 Envision Durham – Transportation System Discussion Paper Engagement

A copy of Report #2019-P-41 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Transportation System Discussion Paper and the Discussion Paper dated October 2019 were provided as Attachments #3 and #4 to the Agenda and received.

B) Report #2019-P-42 Provincial Policy Statement Review

A copy of Report #2019-P-42 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Provincial Policy Statement Review, Proposed Policies (ERO #019-0279) was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

6. Other Business

A) Request for Information regarding an Event Centred around Sunflowers

Z. Cohoon stated that he was contacted by K. Boadway, a member of the public, with a hope to obtain some leads in assisting with putting on an event centered around sunflowers on the western side of Durham Region. The event will likely have to take place in August during the sunflower blooming period and will require reaching out to farmers who would be willing to host such an event in 2020. Z. Cohoon stated that he will forward the request to Willowtree Farms as well as Cooper's Farm.

B) Noxious Weeds and Weed Control in Durham Region

T. Barrie stated that there's a need for Health Inspectors to do something about Fleabane. He requested that staff look into who regulates noxious weeds and who is responsible for weed control in Durham Region. K. Allore-Engel advised that she will look into it and advise the committee.

7. Date of Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk