

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 17, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:01 PM.

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
S. Clearwater, Whitby
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-
R. Dickinson, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa
D. Sallans, Member at Large
B. Shipp, Member at Large
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large
D. Upadhyay, Youth Member
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby

Absent: C. Duffy, Post-Secondary Member
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
K. Murray, Member at Large
M. Thompson, Ajax

Staff

Present: C. Leitch, Principal Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning & Economic Development Department

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by D. Stathopoulos, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That the agenda for the October 17, 2019 DEAC meeting, as
presented, be approved.

CARRIED

A. Luqman provided the following updates with respect to business arising from previous DEAC meetings:

- In regards to whether the same protocols were used to determine the surface temperatures of Durham Region from 1997 compared to 2017 in the Region's "Managing Urban Heat Islands" study: the source for the

data is the United States Geological Survey which pulls data from the Landsat Provisional Surface Temperature product. It is generated from a series of data sources as noted on the USGS website. A. Luqman advised that she has requested further information from Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, and will forward to the Committee once available.

- Regarding whether there's a green roof standard in Durham Region, and if any municipalities have it in place: there are currently no standards in place for green roofs in Durham Region. The only known municipality that has a Green Roof Standard is the City of Toronto.
- A. Luqman followed up with the Works Department with respect to the size of Durham's recycling and compost yards and will forward this information to the Committee once it is received.
- A. Luqman provided the Committee with a copy of the DEAC Awards nomination form which includes the evaluation criteria.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by D. Upadhyay,
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,
September 19, be adopted.

CARRIED

It was the consensus of the Committee that the following bullets be clarified and that the minutes be revised accordingly:

That the 5th bullet on page 3 of the September 19, 2019 DEAC minutes, under Item 4A) Presentation: Regional Strategic Plan, under question, "2. Given these challenges, what are the top priorities or most pressing issues that we need to focus on over the next 5 years?", be amended to add the words, 'similar to car emissions' at the end of the sentence; and

That the 6th bullet on page 5 of the September 19, 2019 DEAC minutes, under Item 5A) Presentation: Regional Cycling Plan Update, be amended to now read as follows:

'There are conflicting uses on waterfront trails that need to be addressed in the Region's transportation planning process'.

4. Presentation

A) Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, re: Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper

C. Leitch provided a Presentation titled: "Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper".

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Discussion Paper Context
- Transportation Trends in Durham
 - Growth in Travel
 - Changing commuting and travel patterns
 - Mode share for transit and other modes should continue to increase
- Transportation Planning Policy Context and Considerations
- Policy Considerations
 - Land Use and Transportation
 - Public Transit
 - Roads and Corridor Protection
 - Active Transportation
 - Travel Choices
 - Goods Movement
 - Consultation & Engagement

C. Leitch responded to questions from the Committee regarding the definition of light rail transit and if this would be feasible for Durham; whether population growth and noise mitigation (such as truck traffic) around settlement areas is considered during transportation planning; how staff differentiate between ridership of students versus people going to work, and whether transit ridership has increased; whether Durham will increase transit services in the North due to GO removing a lot of their services from the North; the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for traffic light timing and to improve existing infrastructure; where "non-conventional" electric vehicles (such as e-scooters) fit in Durham; and the protection of the future commuter rail line in the North and the possibility of it being upgraded in the future.

It was discussed that GO transit is the only provincial mechanism that could service the North since LRT is designed to service more high-density areas.

C. Leitch advised that comments on the Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper are requested by December 30, 2019.

B) Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies Inc., re: Growth Management Consultation for Envision Durham

Sunjay Mathuria, on behalf of Melanie Hare, Urban Strategies, provided a Presentation titled: "Growth Management Consultation for Envision Durham".

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Our Team
- Project Understanding
- The Municipal Comprehensive Review
- Envision Durham
- Our Approach to Land Needs Assessment (LNA)
 - Integrating Both Supply & Demand
 - Key Inputs and Steps

S. Mathuria presented the following three (3) key questions and the Committee provided the following input:

1. When it comes to natural heritage and the environment, what are some key opportunities relating to growth in the Region?
2. When it comes to natural heritage and the environment, what are the key challenges relating to growth in the Region?
3. What does natural heritage and environment look like in Durham in 2041?
 - The greenspace areas in Durham has to be protected and expanded
 - The heritage of the Northern municipalities and what the North provides needs to be promoted
 - Keep nature in mind when changing trails or infrastructure as this can create a displacement factor (a trail can change the characteristics of an area). The impact on wildlife also needs to be factored in
 - Importance of preserving wetlands, especially along the Lake Ontario shoreline
 - Celebrate the agricultural aspects that Durham has
 - There are a limited number of hotels or motels for people to stay in the North when events are held; need to build that infrastructure
 - Transportation routes should align with growth of residents
 - The creation of heat islands through development should be considered
 - Source water needs to be looked at, and balancing of impermeable surfaces with canopy cover
 - The Carolinian forest needs to be considered and protected
 - There needs to be more opportunities for children to interact and learn about the environment, such as better parks, looking at best practices, and building spaces for children to play in
 - Part of the Development Charges should incorporate trees/greenery etc. around the development, such as planting trees along the edges of parking lots
 - The challenge of managing residential expectations with in-fill development needs to be considered
 - Developers should build around trees instead of destroying them

- Developers should follow “green standards” such as the inclusion of green roofs and pollinator gardens within new home and condominium developments

5. Items for Discussion/Input

A) Update from Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner’s Guide Subcommittee

J. Cuthbertson advised that the Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner’s Guide Subcommittee met prior to the meeting and continued working through the brainstorming/troubleshooting stage. He advised that if Committee members had any comments or input for the Guide, they could email A. Luqman to then communicate it to the subcommittee.

B) Update from Environmental Awards Subcommittee

A. Luqman advised that the Environmental Awards Subcommittee will meet soon.

It was the consensus of the Committee that R. Dickinson be appointed to the Environmental Awards Subcommittee.

C) Envision Durham Environment & Greenlands System Discussion Paper (2019-P-36)

A copy of Report #2019-P-36 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

A. Luqman advised that Report #2019-P-36 Envision Durham Environment & Greenlands System Discussion Paper is available and that comments are due by the end of the year.

It was the consensus of the Committee to comment on the paper individually and provide a copy to A. Luqman.

D) Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper (2019-P-41)

A copy of Report #2019-P-41 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

A. Luqman advised that Report #2019-P-41 Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper serves as formal notification that the paper is available and that comments are due by the end of the year.

[This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. See page 3 of these minutes]

6. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report #2019-P-37 – Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) Membership Appointments

A copy of Report #2019-P-37 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #4 to the agenda.

A. Luqman introduced the newest member, Brian Shipp, to the Committee.

B) Correspondence from the Town of Ajax, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on September 16, 2019, regarding Climate Emergency Declaration

A copy of the Correspondence from the Town of Ajax, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on September 16, 2019, regarding Climate Emergency Declaration was received as Attachment #5 to the agenda.

C) Commissioner's Report #2019-INFO-67 – Monitoring of Land Division Committee Decisions of the September 9, 2019 Meeting

A copy of Report #2019-INFO-67 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #6 to the agenda.

D) Correspondence from the Town of Whitby, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on September 23, 2019, regarding endorsement of the Commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), including a pledge to reduce and avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions and prepare for the impacts of Climate Change

A copy of the Correspondence from the Town of Whitby, re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on September 23, 2019, regarding endorsement of the Commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), including a pledge to reduce and avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions and prepare for the impacts of Climate Change was received as Attachment #7 to the agenda.

Moved by B. Foxton, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That Information Items 7A) to 7D) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

7. Other Business

A) Port Granby Project Citizen Liaison Group (CLG)

S. Clearwater advised the Committee that she attended a meeting last week where discussion ensued regarding the closure of the site. She advised that she raised an issue of funding and that Port Hope should investigate getting

funding from the Canadian Nuclear Association with respect to being able to handle a 100-year storm through infrastructure upgrades. The Port Granby Project Committee suggested that the funding would have to come from other sources. She also enquired on the end date of this group.

8. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 starting at 7:00 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by D. Sallans, Seconded by G. Carpentier,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham
Environmental Advisory Committee

S. Penak, Committee Clerk