

## **Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM REGION ROUNDTABLE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**October 18, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change was held on Friday, October 18, 2019 in Room LL-C, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 1:03 PM.

Present: D. Hoornweg, Citizen Member, Chair  
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
T. Hall, Citizen Member  
Regional Chair Henry left the meeting at 1:05 PM on municipal business and returned at 1:36 PM  
Councillor Highet, Planning & Economic Development Committee  
J. Kinniburgh, Citizen Member  
J. Koke, Citizen Member  
Councillor Leahy, Finance & Administration Committee, left the meeting at 1:38 PM on municipal business  
G. MacPherson, Citizen Member  
C. Mee, Citizen Member  
K. Senyk, Citizen Member  
M. Vroegh, Citizen Member, Vice-Chair

Absent: Councillor Chapman, Health and Social Services Committee  
B. Cochrane, Citizen Member  
Councillor Crawford, Works Committee  
C. Desbiens, Citizen Member  
R. Plaza, Citizen Member  
K. Shadwick, Citizen Member

#### **Staff**

Present: S. Austin, Director of Corporate Policy and Strategic Initiatives  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning & Economic Development Department  
C. Leitch, Principal Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department  
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the CAO  
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by J. Kinniburgh,  
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Roundtable on  
Climate Change meeting held on September 20, 2019, be adopted.  
CARRIED

## **3. Presentations**

### **A) Franz Hartmann, Chief Engagement Officer, Small Change Fund, re: Durham's Participation in the Great Lakes One Water (GLOW) Partnership – Flooding Engagement Project**

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F. Hartmann provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Taking Action on Flooding". He advised that the Flooding Engagement project focuses on making the climate crisis and the solutions, real and relevant to people.

Highlights from his presentation included:

- Pictures depicting the terrible damage flooding causes to private property, public infrastructure and our neighbourhoods
- Potential for raw sewage to enter the rivers which can lead to unsafe beaches
- Flooding is the costliest natural disaster in Canada
- Why are there more floods now?
  - Climate Change
  - Extreme weather events are on the rise
  - Rapid warming of the Great Lakes
  - Hard surfaces don't allow rainwater to seep into the ground
- The Three Walls
  - CP Rail Line to the north of Highway 401;
  - Highway 401; and
  - CN Rail Line to the south of the Highway 401
- What should we do? What can we do?
  - Green Infrastructure: using nature to replace conventional grey infrastructure
- What we want to do? The nuts and bolts of our plan
  - Outcome 1: Build local understanding of, and support for, Green infrastructure (GI);
  - Outcome 2: New policies that support and incentivize Green infrastructure (GI);
  - Outcome 3: A Lake Ontario Celebration of Green Infrastructure Actions
- Founding Partners
- The Bigger Picture
  - "The Great Lakes One Water Partnership"
- What You Can Do

F. Hartmann stated that flooding affects both the public and private sectors financially; can cause emotional stress; and has serious health effects.

F. Hartmann suggested that this Project is best suited for municipalities that suffer from urban flooding. He noted that the Project would help reduce the harm done by flooding, including the cost. It would give people a chance to make a difference; make our communities more beautiful, by reducing the urban heat island effect; and help businesses that benefit from selling products and services in support green infrastructure.

F. Hartmann suggested that the DRRCC and residents can send examples of successful green infrastructure projects in Durham Region to them; help identify community partners interested in seeing greener infrastructure in Durham Region; and join with Regional groups and residents interested in working together to promote green infrastructure.

F. Hartmann responded to questions from the Committee regarding what the Small Change Fund would advocate, including any tactics they would recommend, for a better outcome; how connected the Small Change Fund is with Conservation Authorities; and whether the Downspout Disconnect Program in Toronto was quantifiably successful.

B) Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, and Greg Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning & Economic Development Department, re: Overview of the Municipal Comprehensive Review Transportation System Discussion Paper

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C. Leitch and G. Pereira provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "The Transportation System Discussion Paper". He advised that the Discussion Paper has been released to eight local area municipalities, conservation authorities, the provincial ministries, Metrolinx, and the public for review and comment.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Discussions 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
  - Discussion Paper 'Policy' Themes
    - Land Use and Transportation
    - Roads and Corridor Protection
    - Active Transportation
    - Travel Choices
    - Public Transit
    - Goods Movement
- Consultation and Engagement

C. Leitch advised that consultation and engagement has taken place for the Envision Durham project through the public opinion survey, social media and an Area Municipal Working Group meeting, and that staff of Works and Durham Region Transit were consulted on the draft Discussion Paper.

C. Leitch noted that comments on the Discussion Paper are requested by December 30, 2019.

C. Leitch responded to questions regarding whether the electrification of the Regional fleet will be addressed as part of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP); the need to ensure that “resilient infrastructure” is part of this process, including factoring in safety as part of the detailed design infrastructures for rivers; if the inclusion of bicycling and pedestrian modes of active transportation policies are part of the TMP; and whether there are any updates on the utilization of hydro corridors and waterways as part of active transportation.

C. Mee suggested that the Committee, with staff’s guidance, prepare a document outlining their comments on the Discussion Paper. I. McVey advised staff will investigate options for the inclusion of the Committee’s comments.

#### **4. Items for Action and Discussion**

##### **A) Durham Deep Retrofit Program – Conceptual Framework October 18, 2019**

I. McVey provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Durham Deep Retrofit Program – Conceptual Framework October 18, 2019”. He advised that the Program outlines the conceptual framework, implementation and next steps.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Community Energy Plan (DCEP) implementation programs:
  1. Durham Green Standard
  2. Deep Retrofit Program
  3. Renewable Energy Co-op
  4. Electric Vehicles (EV) / Joint Venture (JV)
  5. Community Mobilization
  6. Co-ordinated Land-use
- The Low Carbon Pathway 2016 to 2051 Chart
  - The most cost-effective emissions reductions are found in the transportation sector, followed by the residential sector
- Lower household energy expenditures
- Key Considerations
  - Essential to achieve scale
  - Focus on older, more inefficient homes first
  - Demonstrate success early, and be poised for market scale-up
  - Address supply chain constraints, i.e. skilled trades and materials manufacturers

- Focus on the Region's post-war bungalows to Start?
- Deep Retrofit Package
  - Standard package by home type and age – determined through technical analysis
  - Core Package
  - Optional upgrades
- Deep Retrofit Program – Conceptual Framework
  - Program element
    - Branding Strategy
    - Technical analysis of housing stock
    - Supply chain analysis
    - Financing strategy
    - Demonstration projects
- Deep Retrofit Program – Updated Implementation Pathway
- Next Steps

I. McVey provided an update on the Deep Retrofit Program implementation pathway and discussed its 2019 and 2020 actions and timelines.

I. McVey advised that the next steps would include setting up a working group/task force; the submission of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) / Green Municipal Fund (GMF) Feasibility Study funding application for the development of a detailed business case and business plan; and a marketing plan and branding for the Program.

I. McVey responded to questions regarding improving the storm resilience, and, the need for home energy programs such as an ener-guide rating to encourage cost-effective incentive reduction measures. Discussion followed on absolute energy consumption versus retrofits efficiencies; and possible “Do it Yourself” measures such as programable thermostats and swimming pool heaters / filter pumps.

B) Updating Durham GHG Reduction Targets, Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Durham Region

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I. McVey provided an update on the Durham GHG Reduction Targets.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham's GHG reduction targets
  - 2012 Durham Local Action Plan set targets of:
    - 5% below 2007 levels by 2015
    - 20% below 2007 levels by 2020
    - 80% below 2007 levels by 2050
  - 2019 Durham Community Energy Plan updated the baseline to 2016, and modelled a pathway to the 2050 target
  - 2015 target was not achieved, and the 2020 target cannot be met

- Updated targets – proposal for consideration
  - Update targets to align with DCEP 2016 baseline, and low carbon pathway
  - Develop interim targets to provide check-points on the low carbon path, and accountability mechanism to partners for implementation
  - Based upon DCEP modelling, targets could be:
    - 5% below 2016 levels by 2022
    - 12% below 2016 levels by 2025
    - 23% below 2016 levels by 2028

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of tracking the progress of the interim targets, being an indicator of the course directions taken; and projected reductions based on lower level activities measures and achievements.

I. McVey responded to questions regarding the potential for a bi-annual Regional GHG Reduction Target report card; whether the Region has received feedback on the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Towns of Ajax and Whitby; opportunities for buy-ins in terms of transparency and accountability from the community and senior levels of government; and if it would make more sense to focus on, and tackle, our corporate carbon footprint first.

S. Austin advised that the Region is provincially mandated to have a corporate conservation demand management plan and report annually on its corporative initiatives. She added that the Region's tactic is to be more integrated with what it is doing at the community level, by taking the lead.

C) Durham Food Security Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Adaptation Strategy – Proposed Scope of Work, June Kinniburgh, DRRCC Citizen Member

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J. Kinniburgh provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Durham Region Food Security Task Force formed in 2018.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Durham Region Food Security Task Force
  - Accomplishments and Work Status
- Resilient Food Systems, Resilient Cities: A High-Level Vulnerability Assessment of Toronto's Food System 2018
- Next Steps: Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Scope of Work
  - Repackage A High-Level Vulnerability Assessment of Durham Region's Food System into a Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy
  - Request feedback on the strategy from community stakeholders

- Present the final document to the DRRCC and Regional Council for approval

J. Kinniburgh provided an overview of the Durham Region Food Security Task Force goals, accomplishments and work to date. She stated that the project concept “A High-Level Vulnerability Assessment of Durham Region’s Food System” was created by the Task Force, in collaboration with Dr. Joel Baetz, Professor, Trent University, and presented to the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change Committee on May 17, 2019.

J. Kinniburgh advised that the next steps include moving from resilience to mitigation and developing a Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy. This could be achieved collaborating with many of the community organizations to build resilience and mitigate community risks related to food shortages and food access issues in the event of a natural disaster.

J. Kinniburgh advised that the scope of work would include presenting a final Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy document to the DRRCC and Regional Council for approval. She added that this would complete the work of the Durham Region Food Security Task Force and be the final addendum to the Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for hiring a consultant to assist with the development of a Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy; the financial costs and project timelines; the DRRCC 2019 Workplan; a peer review of the “A High-Level Vulnerability Assessment of Durham Region’s Food System” capstone course project; opportunities to ensure that the Region’s food system is secure and resilient in the event of a crisis; and, how to interface with the rural agriculture and farm sectors.

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by T. Hall,  
That the presentation from June Kinniburgh regarding a “Durham Region Food Security Climate Adaptation Strategy” be referred to staff for a report.

CARRIED

## **5. Other Business**

### **A) Declaring Climate Change an Emergency**

G. MacPherson raised the matter of the recent announcements by the Ontario Municipalities declaring Climate Change an emergency. He inquired whether the Region of Durham has a similar appetite to declare climate change an emergency; in recognition of the risks posed by climate change.

I. McVey advised that this matter will be added as an “Item for Discussion” on the November 15, 2019 agenda.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change will be held on Friday, November 15, 2019 starting at 1:00 PM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**7. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by K. Senyk,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

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D. Hoornweg, Chair, Durham Region  
Roundtable on Climate Change

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C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk