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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 12, 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 attended the meeting at 7:45 PM
T. Barrie, Clarington left the meeting at 8:22 PM
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
G. O'Connor, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:33 PM
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair attended the meeting at 7:32 PM
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor was absent due to municipal business
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
P. MacArthur, Oshawa

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Department of Planning and Economic Development left the meeting at 8:40 PM
K. Kilbourne, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
C. Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, Department of Planning and Economic Development
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on October 8, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Delegations

A) Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign – April Stevenson and Mike Hurley

A. Stevenson and M. Hurley provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign.

M. Hurley stated that the Highway of Heroes Tree Campaign is to plant 2,000,000 trees between Trenton and Toronto, representing one tree for every Canadian that has served during times of conflict since Confederation. He advised that 117,000 of the most prominent trees will be planted adjacent to the stretch of Highway 401 known as the Highway of Heroes and advised that their goal is to achieve \$10 million in pledges by 2020.

M. Hurley further stated that there is a Private Landowner Partnership Program where qualified landowners could receive a subsidy that covers 80-90% of planting costs. A. Stevenson advised that to qualify for the program, properties must be within 15 km of the Highway of Heroes and properties with 2.5 acres or more of mostly open land will be given preference. She advised that once qualified, the program provides the following: site assessment; planting plan created; project estimate preparation; 15-year landowner agreement; planting scheduled; spring tree planting; and fall follow-up survival assessments. M. Hurley also provided an overview of the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP). To qualify for the MFTIP, one must own 4 hectares of forested land and have a minimum number of trees on each acre of forest owned.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That A. Stevenson and M. Hurley be granted a one-time 2-minute
extension in order to finish their delegation.

CARRIED

M. Hurley advised of the following benefits to trees: natural wind and snow barriers; natural privacy fences; stabilizes soil and prevents erosion; and natural water filters, absorbing stormwater and filtering pollutants. He advised that he is looking to the Committee to spread the word on the program.

M. Hurley responded to questions of the Committee and discussion ensued around best practices for tree planting and the avoidance of prime agricultural lands.

4. Presentations

A) Envision Durham Transportation System Discussion Paper – Chris Leitch, Principal Planner

C. Leitch, Principal Planner, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Transportation System Discussion Paper. He advised that the Discussion Paper has been released to Durham's area municipalities, conservation authorities, provincial ministries, Metrolinx and the public for review and comment and is the fifth paper in a series of six discussion papers that will be released throughout the year as part of the Envision Durham initiative. C. Leitch stated that the Regional Transportation System is comprised of linear facilities such as roads, railways, transit routes, active transportation networks, and location specific facilities. He stated that the recently completed Transportation Master Plan forms the basis for the transportation vision for the Region.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Transportation System Discussion Paper
- Discussion Paper Context
 - Durham Transportation Master Plan (2017) forms the basis for the transportation "vision" for the Region
 - Amendment #171 to the Regional Official Plan
- 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
 - Public Transit
 - Roads and Corridor Protection
 - Active Transportation
 - Goods Movement
- Consultation and Engagement

C. Leitch responded to questions with regards to truck traffic going through smaller towns and the need to provide alternate routes; road reclassification from municipal to regional; and the key issue for DAAC being goods movement and the Oshawa Port.

K. Kilbourne advised that additional comments on the Discussion Paper can be provided online through the website.

B) Cycle Durham Cycling Plan Update – Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner

A. Caruso, Senior Planner, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to the Regional Cycling Plan Update.

A. Caruso stated that the Region is about to launch an update to the Regional Cycling Plan. He provided an overview on the history of the Regional Cycle Plans (2008-2012) and stated that the first Cycling Plan was done in 2008 with an internal update in 2012.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- History of Regional Cycle Plans
- Updates since 2012
 - Provincial Plans and Policies
 - New Cycling Communications Strategy – Draft (2018-2021)
 - Bike Month Events
 - Vision Zero – Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (mid-2019)
 - Growing and stronger voices from the cycling community
 - Growing recognition that cycling needs to be a more prominent component of our transportation system
 - Durham Trails Coordinating Committee rebranded into Durham Active Transportation Committee in 2019
- What the Cyclists are saying...
 - Regional cycling plans and municipal cycling plans need to be integrated and seamless
 - Roads must include safe cycling infrastructure
 - Safe cycling routes to GO transit stations, colleges, universities and other central areas
 - Cycling routes be numbered and sign posted to correspond with tourist maps
 - Roads on cycling routes not scheduled for reconstruction within 10 years should include provision for bike lanes or paved shoulders added
 - Durham routes need to connect to establish routes from adjacent regions
 - Northern communities need to develop infrastructure to accommodate cycling routes
 - Routes should recognize on-road cycling vs multi use paths and trails as being distinct due to the different types of cyclists
- What Residents are saying...
 - Need more traffic calming measures to improve walk mode share
 - Consider having an “Active and Safe Routes to School Coordinator”
 - Congestion around schools is an issue
 - Add cycling facilities across Highways 401 and 412
 - Add Greenbelt cycling route and Waterfront cycling route
 - Review feasibility of Bike Sharing program
 - Advance development of cycling corridor adjacent to future Highway 407 transitway corridor
 - Investigate hydro corridors for multi-use facilities

- Provide connection between Bowmanville and Courtice on Highway 2
- Cycling Implementation Plans
- Funding Strategies
- Northern Durham and Rural Issues

A. Caruso stated that a Cycling Implementation Plan is a roadmap for putting a plan into action and is a critical component of transforming the content of a plan into tangible actions. He stated that it is important to identify who is responsible for what as it ensures accountability; divides tasks appropriately; and allows for the identification of partnerships. He further stated that without a fully formed funding strategy, it will be a challenge to carry out all aspects of the Regional Cycling Plan. He advised of the following options for funding strategies: development charges (most commonly cited); capital budgets; and regional funding and further advised that the feasibility of funding options will be determined through the update.

A. Caruso advised that the next steps with the update is the project kick-off; a plan for public consultation; workshops, pop-up events; and a one-year long project.

A. Caruso responded to questions with regards to connecting trails under hydro corridors and ensuring consideration of agricultural operations in these corridors; the need to educate cyclists to respect the properties they cycle around; support for paved shoulders in the rural area for cyclists to ride on so that they are off some high traffic roads; enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act; the importance for everyone to be able to co-exist; the possibility of having some roads where cyclists are not allowed; and consultation with residents regarding where the bike routes should be.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

K. Kilbourne provided the following update on behalf of L. MacKenzie, Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

- With regards to the Agricultural Strategy, staff will be finalizing work with the consulting firm in the coming weeks.
- With regards to the Durham Region Agricultural Education and Event Centre Project Update, the Phase 1 study confirmed feasibility of the concept and that it could work at any number of identified sites. For purposes of the Phase 2 analysis, the steering committee chose a greenfield type site. Members of the Consultant Team will be providing a Phase 2 summary report presentation on November 30, 2019 at the Nestleton Community Centre. K. Kilbourne stated that she will provide further details to the Committee.

6. Information Items

A) Report #2019-INFO-66 DAAC 2019 Farm Tour

A copy of Information Report #2019-INFO-66 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, 2019 Farm Tour was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

B) Report #2019-INFO-75 Gates Open: Find Your Flavour

A copy of Information Report #2019-INFO-75 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Gates Open: Find Your Flavour was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

C) Report #2019-P-44 Regional Woodland By-law Update

A copy of Report #2019-P-44 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Region of Durham Woodland Conservation and Management By-law (Regional Woodland By-law) was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

D) Notice of Commencement - Sunderland and Cannington Class
Environmental Assessment for Additional Sanitary Sewage Capacity

A copy of the Notice of Study Commencement for Additional Sanitary Sewage Capacity to Service Sunderland and Cannington in the Township of Brock was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

7. Other Business

A) Durham Budget 2020 Open House

K. Kilbourne advised that the Region is hosting two Budget Open Houses on November 12 and 13 to provide community members with an opportunity to learn more about the Region's Property Tax Supported Business Plans and Budgets; to gain an increased understanding of the Region's programs and services; and to provide their input on priorities for 2020. Information regarding time and location is available on the Regional website.

B) 2020 DAAC Farm Tour

Z. Cohoon requested that a sub-committee be formed to discuss themes, ideas, locations etc. for the 2020 DAAC Farm Tour. It was the consensus of the Committee that the following members be appointed to the sub-committee: Z. Cohoon; K. Kemp; F. Puterbough; D. Risebrough; B. Smith and T. Watpool.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by D. Risebrough,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk