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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 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
T. Barrie, Clarington
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor was absent due to municipal business
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
M. Gonsalves, Policy Planning Student, Department of Planning and Economic Development
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development
L. Mackenzie, Program Coordinator, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Razvi, Broadband Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on January 14, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Presentations

A) Riaz Razvi, Durham Region Broadband Strategy Implementation

R. Razvi, Broadband Specialist, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Broadband Program Update.

R. Razvi stated that the Region of Durham recognizes the importance of broadband access and has launched separate broadband surveys to gather user feedback to further expand and improve broadband access across the region. He provided an overview of the working groups and advised that they meet on a monthly basis to collaborate and work collectively. He advised that a Request for Information was released in November 2019 and the following themes were derived from the feedback received:

- Permits, MCs, MAAs
- Co-ordination & Collaboration
- Data sharing & guidelines
- Open access network
- Procurement
- Advocacy
- Dig Once
- Tower Sharing

R. Razvi stated that the Broadband survey was recently launched, and the results are needed in order to move forward with the Broadband Strategy. He advised that the goal is to obtain responses from every community, with particular attention to rural communities. He provided hard copies of the survey to committee members.

R. Razvi responded to questions with regards to whether there are areas more in need of broadband; and the difference between fibre and broadband.

B) Lino Trombino, Regional Woodland Conservation Bylaw

This presentation was rescheduled to a subsequent meeting.

4. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update - L. MacKenzie, Program Coordinator, Agriculture and Rural Affairs

The following update was provided:

- L. MacKenzie attended the OMAFRA Roundtable on Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019. She advised that those in attendance fully supported the Bill but would like to see some amendments in the future to include additional protections. She advised that the Bill is only applicable to livestock but farmers at the table expressed concerns that fruits, vegetables and grains are also food sources and there should be further protections around that as well. She stated that letters of support can be provided directly to the Ministers office.
- L. MacKenzie attended the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) 2019 Awards of Excellence President's Dinner and Awards Ceremony on February 6, 2020 held at the Marriott in Toronto. She advised that under the Planning and Strategic Development Awards, the Region of Durham won the award for "Growing Resilience: Durham Region Agriculture Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy" and received an Honourable Mention of the "Connecting Our Communities: A Broadband Strategy for Durham Region".

B) DAAC Farm Tour

D. Risebrough advised that the subcommittee met on February 4, 2020. He advised that the Farm Tour will be held on September 17, 2020 at Goodyear Farms in the Township of Brock. He stated that it would be great to have a presentation regarding the recent work done between Goodyear Farms and the Conservation Authority to deal with the run-off issues, as well as best practices and mitigation strategies. Discussion ensued with regards to the need to find a guest speaker; getting recommendations for a caterer; and ideas for a third topic area. The next sub-committee meeting will be held on March 3, 2020.

5. Information Items

A) Report #2020-INFO-5: Durham Region Broadband Program Update

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Durham Region Broadband Program Update was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

B) Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting on Drainage Act Discussion Paper

A copy of the Drainage Act Discussion Paper – Summary of Proposal was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

6. Other Business

A) Presentation of DAAC Annual Report and Proposed 2020 Workplan to the Planning and Economic Development Committee

K. Allore-Engel advised that Z. Cohoon will be presenting the Annual Report and Proposed 2020 Workplan to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on March 3, 2020.

B) Tour of the Durham York Energy Centre

K. Allore-Engel inquired whether there was an interest for the Committee to tour the Durham York Energy Centre. It was the consensus of the Committee to have an off-site meeting with a tour of the facility later this year.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

8. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by K. Kemp,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk