



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

7:30 PM

Council Chambers
Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters
605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

Please note: In an effort to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and to generally comply with the directions from the Government of Ontario, it is requested in the strongest terms that Members participate in the meeting electronically. Regional Headquarters is closed to the public, all members of the public may view the Committee meeting via live streaming, instead of attending the meeting in person. If you wish to register as a delegate regarding an agenda item, you may register in advance of the meeting by noon on the day prior to the meeting by emailing delegations@durham.ca and will be provided with the details to delegate electronically.

1. Roll Call

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Adoption of Minutes

- A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on August 18, 2020
([Attachment 1](#))

4. Discussion Items

- A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb
B) DAAC Farm Tour – D. Risebrough

5. Other Business

6. Date of Next Meeting

October 13, 2020

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 18, 2020

A special meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:38 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
T. Barrie, Clarington
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: G. Highet, Regional Councillor

Absent: D. Bath-Hadden, Regional Councillor
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
B. Smith, Uxbridge
B. Winter, Ajax

Staff

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by T. Barrie,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on July 14, 2020 be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Discussion Items

A) Improving Connectivity in Ontario – A Brown

A. Brown advised that Economic Development staff and the Region's Broadband Specialist are asking for a letter of support from the committee with regards to the Region's application for the Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) funding. She stated that Durham is proposing a project that will bring high speed fibreoptic cables into rural communities and establish points of connection for high speed internet connections with a goal to improve internet access in Durham's rural areas.

At this point in the meeting, Riaz Razvi, the Region's Broadband Specialist joined the meeting to provide further clarification on the proposed network.

Discussion ensued with regards to the importance of having good connectivity for the recording of data, field operations and day to day business for the agricultural community. It was stated that agricultural enterprises also require internet connections for monitoring volumes of product produced, alarms, monitoring barns for environmental factors as well as robotics.

Staff responded to questions with regards to the power and longevity of the network; whether the fibreoptic line will be usable for future connectivity; and whether there has been discussion with the Internet Service Providers regarding the need for connectivity specifically to the farming community.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Barrie,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee:

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Region of Durham's application to the Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) program for the establishment of a Regional Broadband Network and that a letter of support as provided in Attachment #2 to the August 18, 2020 DAAC agenda be forwarded to Planning and Economic Development staff as part of the submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure regarding the Region of Durham application to the ICON Program; and

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee be so advised.

CARRIED

B) DAAC Farm Tour – D. Risebrough

D. Risebrough advised that the invitation to the virtual Farm Tour was sent out on August 18th. He advised that members need to register in order to receive the password to participate.

D. Risebrough advised that the filming for the video has started and filming with the Regional Chair has been scheduled. He also advised that the sub-committee is in the process of reviewing photos for the photo montage and asked for committee members to forward any appropriate photos they may have.

Discussion ensued with regards to the need to encourage more participation from regional, municipal and school board staff; as well as the possibility of presenting the video as an educational piece in the future.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

7. Adjournment

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by G. O'Connor,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk