

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 17, 2020 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:02 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering, attended the meeting at 7:16 PM
S. Clearwater, Whitby
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
B. Shipp, Member at Large, left the meeting at 8:33 PM
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large
M. Thompson, Ajax
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: R. Dickinson, Brock
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
K. Murray, Member at Large

Staff

Present: C. Acosta, Planning Analyst, Plan Implementation, Planning & Economic Development Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
S. Penak, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation, Planning & Economic Development Department
A. Yearwood, Project Planner, Plan Implementation, Planning & Economic Development Department

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the agenda for the September 17, 2020 DEAC meeting, as presented, be approved.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,
June 18, 2020, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Ashley Yearwood, Project Planner, re: Durham's Soil and Groundwater
Assessment Protocol

A. Yearwood, Project Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding
Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview
- History
- Purpose of Updating the Protocol
- Streamlining Amendments
- Legislative Amendments
- Housekeeping Amendments
- Other Amendments
- Next Steps
- Questions

A. Yearwood responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether agricultural sites are treated the same as residential sites with respect to contaminant levels; why there is more leniency with the Enhanced Investigation Properties (EIP); what type of questions are asked on the Simplified Site Screening Questionnaire (SSQ); are there specific criteria for land conveyances for the Province or private interests (e.g. 407 ETR); if an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is not done to the Record of Site Conditions (RSC) standard, what standard would be required; what qualifications a Qualified Person (QP) has; and whether the Region of Durham could become more or less vulnerable to covering the costs for abandoned contaminated sites as a result of the described changes.

A. Luqman advised that she would email the presentation to the Committee after the meeting.

6. Items for Discussion/Input

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

A. Luqman provided an update from the Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner's Guide Subcommittee. She advised that the content of the guide has been inputted into the draft guide and that the next steps will be to format, ensure the guide comes from one voice, put together pictures, and then send the guide to graphics to finalize. J. Cuthbertson along with A. Luqman and G. Carpentier advised that they would work together to ensure the document came from one voice.

Discussion ensued regarding how many and what type of references should be included in the guide. The Committee suggested adding the LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program into the guide.

A. Luqman advised that the expected timeline for completion would be the end of year (2020).

B) New Membership Update

A. Luqman advised that D. Sallans resigned from the Committee, and that there are currently no student members as they have graduated.

A. Luqman advised that she will be reviewing the list of applications previously received in order to fill D. Sallans vacancy.

C) Terms of Reference Update, re: Student and Youth Members

Detailed discussion ensued regarding student membership and how the Committee could decrease the gap when there are no student members (high school and post-secondary) on the committee.

A. Luqman advised that recruitment usually doesn't take place until September or October, or at the latest January.

Further discussion ensued regarding whether recruitment could take place while the current member is still active, but near the end of their term.

D. Stathopoulos offered to help recruit for the post-secondary positions.

D) Green Bin Pick-Up Concerns Around COVID-19

G. Carpentier raised concerns regarding not being able to use a lining such as newspaper or an egg carton in the compost bin to soak up any potential liquid from food waste, instead of a compost bag. He advised that he emailed the Works department on this matter and the response he received was that it was for the health and safety of the waste collectors. He questioned how

residents of Durham could balance their green initiatives, with the health protection of the workers.

G. Carpentier raised further concerns regarding the wording on the Durham waste website that stated everything that is placed in the garbage must be bagged. He suggested that the wording on the website be revised to clarify the process of waste disposal.

G. Carpentier advised that a member from waste management has offered to come present to the DEAC to speak about the Region's protocols before and through COVID; and the Region's long-term vision with respect to waste management.

Discussion ensued regarding what metrics or tracking the Region uses to measure the progress towards their 2015 goals and how the Region will meet its goals of the current Durham Region Strategic Plan.

7. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report #2020-P-19 – Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol

A copy of Report #2020-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

B) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-79 – Update on Single-Use Plastics Policies in the Regional Municipality of Durham

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-79 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #4 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding ensuring there are mechanisms in place to allow residents who want to recycle to do it right.

C) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-80 – Anaerobic Digestion Facility

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-80 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #5 to the agenda.

Discuss ensued regarding concerns over what would be accepted into the green bins (i.e. diapers) which is then converted into compost; and concerns that the Coronavirus is known to be found in sewage.

Further discussion ensued regarding residents' perception and possible misconceptions of the Energy from Waste (EFW) facility.

D) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-75 – Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) Blue Box Lid and Litter Audit Pilot Project

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-75 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #6 to the agenda.

E) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-76 – The Regional Municipality of Durham's Evolving Integrated Waste Management System

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-76 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #7 to the agenda.

F) News Release, re: Durham's Single-Use Plastics Display Receives the Municipal Waste Association P&E Silver Award

A copy of the news release regarding Durham's single-use plastics display receiving the Municipal Waste Association P&E Silver Award, was received as Attachment #8 to the agenda.

G) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-74 – Waste Management Annual Report

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-74 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #9 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding what the Region's total diversion rate was; and whether there was a report that showed what direction the Region would be headed, with or without the incinerator. A. Luqman advised that she would forward this question to the Works Department.

H) Commissioner's Report #2020-P-13 – Region of Durham Woodland Conservation and Management By-law

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-74 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received as Attachment #10 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding what advisory committees were able to provide input for the Region of Durham Woodland Conservation and Management By-law; and how much input was received from the various advisory committees.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That Information Items 7A) to 7H) inclusive, be received for
information.

CARRIED

8. Other Business

A) Duffins Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Meeting (WPCP)

S. Clearwater advised that the next Duffins Creek WPCP meeting will be held September 30, 2020 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

B) October DEAC Meeting

Discussion ensued regarding whether the October DEAC meeting will be held virtually or in-person. A. Luqman advised she will email the Committee when this has been determined.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 starting at 7:00 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

10. Adjournment

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham
Environmental Advisory Committee

S. Penak, Committee Clerk