

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Councillor Ryan, Chair  
Councillor Joe Neal, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Highet  
Councillor Kerr  
Councillor Lee  
Councillor Yamada  
Regional Chair Henry  
**\* all members of Committee, except Regional Chair Henry, participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Dies  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Mulcahy  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Wotten

Absent: Councillor Bath-Hadden

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer  
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
A. Caruso, Senior Planner  
H. Finlay, Senior Planner  
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism  
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
G. Muller, Director of Planning  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning  
B. Pickard, Manager, Tourism  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
K. Ryan, Senior Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services

S. Salomone, Manager, Economic Development, Business Development  
and Investment  
J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster  
Development  
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation  
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,  
(50) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**4. Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

**5. Delegations**

**5.1 Diane Cameron, Director, Nuclear Energy, Natural Resources Canada, re:  
Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan**

Diane Cameron, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee with respect to Canada's Small Modular Reactor Action Plan and the invitation for Durham Region to join the Action Plan.

Ms. Cameron advised that she is the Director of the Nuclear Energy Division within Natural Resources Canada. She also advised that she oversees a team that leads and coordinates nuclear energy policy for Canada. She explained that they work in close collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, and industry partners. She noted that there is also an increasing desire to work with other stakeholder groups and partners.

Ms. Cameron provided a brief overview of the nuclear energy sector. She advised that the nuclear energy sector in Canada currently operates CANDU reactors that provide over 65% of electricity in Ontario, over 35% of electricity in New Brunswick, and represents about 15% of Canada's electricity supply. She also advised that nuclear energy is the second largest non-emitting source of power in Canada, displacing over 50 megatons of emissions every year. She stated that the industry provides 76,000 direct and indirect jobs in Canada and adds \$17 billion annually to Canada's GDP.

Ms. Cameron further advised that small modular reactors (SMR) are a new wave of nuclear energy technology that are being worked on around the world. She stated that SMRs are an area where Canada has many advantages and has been in a leadership position. She advised that SMRs are smaller than a CANDU reactor in both size and power output, generate under 300 megawatts, are modular, and are reactors powered by nuclear fission. She also advised that Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is taking steps to build the first grid scale 300mw electric SMR at the Darlington site and partner with the Province of Saskatchewan to help them phase out coal.

Ms. Cameron further advised that in 2018 Canada commenced a project called Canada's SMR Roadmap and in November 2018 a report was published. She explained that work continued in 2019 and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Premiers of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick to collaborate on the development of SMRs. In early 2020, the Minister of Natural Resources Canada announced that they would reconvene and produce Canada's SMR Action Plan. She also advised that Canada's SMR Action Plan will be released in November 2020 and they are seeking to release it with their partners. She stated that Durham Region is invited to join the Action Plan and she noted that the final report will include 100 or more organizations.

D. Cameron responded to questions.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2020-EDT-9 at this time.

## 8.2 Reports

### C) Natural Resources Canada Small Nuclear Reactor Action Plan 2020 (2020-EDT-9)

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Report #2020-EDT-9 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
(51) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council endorse the following draft resolution contained in Attachment #1 to Report #2020-EDT-9 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development to advise Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) that Durham Region will become an active participant in the development of NRCan's Small Nuclear Reactor Action Plan 2020:

Whereas the federal government is positioning Canada to be an early global leader in the development and implementation of small modular reactors (SMRs) with the publication in November 2018 of "A Call to Action: A Canadian Roadmap for Small Modular Reactors";

Whereas the federal government, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick and a host of partners in the nuclear sector are taking a 'Team Canada' approach to developing an action plan for publication in November 2020 to seize the SMR opportunity;

Whereas nuclear energy is critical to Canada's ability to meet its international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift to a low carbon economy and SMRs could support electricity needs where fossil fuels are being phased out, and offer the opportunity for remote and northern off-grid communities and resource extraction sites to move from diesel generation to a mix of energy sources including nuclear;

Whereas Canada has a robust legal and regulatory framework that is internationally recognized guiding and ensuring the safe, secure of operation of nuclear industry;

Whereas Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has announced that they will be locating their corporate headquarters in Durham Region, and lands at OPG's Darlington Nuclear Generating Station (NGS) are the only site in Canada approved for new nuclear development;

Whereas Ontario Tech University offers Canada's only undergraduate Nuclear Engineering program as well as Nuclear Engineering graduate degrees, and has recently established the Centre for SMRs to conduct SMR research and to prepare the next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers for this emerging technology;

Whereas certain types of SMRs (micro-modular reactors) are being explored for development by New Brunswick that may be able to use spent fuel from CANDU reactors as their primary fuel source;

Whereas the development of SMRs aligns closely with Durham Region's clean energy, engineering, and environment (EN3) economic development strategy, and the adoption of this technology first in Durham Region positions the region well for the development of the SMR value chain, expertise, and accompanying high-skill job creation locally; and

Whereas becoming the centre of excellence nationally for SMRs positions the region well for exporting SMR expertise, components and engineering in the future, both domestically and internationally, offering a unique opportunity to contribute to Durham's, Ontario's, and Canada's economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Durham Region become an active participant and supporter in the development by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) of the SMR Action Plan 2020 by providing a vision statement to the website and conveying our interest in being part of the SMR future in Canada;

That Regional Council endorse the NRCan SMR statement of principles;

That the Region commit to appropriate action items in contribution to the broader Canada SMR Action Plan; and

That a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada; the Director, Nuclear Energy Division at Natural Resources Canada; Ontario's Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines; Durham MPs and MPPs; members of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities; and Ontario Power Generation.

CARRIED

## 5. Delegations

- 5.2 Kristen Hinde, Project Engineer, Skelton Brumwell & Associates; Anne Guiot, Senior Planner, Skelton Brumwell & Associates; and Victor Giordano, VicDom Sand and Gravel, re: Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted by VicDom Sand and Gravel (Ontario) Ltd., File: OPA 2014-008

Anne Guiot, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee with respect to the application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan submitted by VicDom Sand and Gravel (Ontario) Ltd. Kristen Hinde and Victor Giordano also participated electronically.

Ms. Guiot advised that they were present to answer any questions on Report #2020-P-20 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2020-P-20 at this time.

## 7.2 Reports

- A) Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by VicDom Sand and Gravel (Ontario) Ltd., to permit a new Aggregate Resource Extraction Area in the Township of Uxbridge, File: OPA 2014-008 (2020-P-20)

Report #2020-P-20 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Yamada, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(52) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Amendment #182 to the Durham Regional Official Plan to permit a new aggregate resource extraction area, as detailed in Attachment #3 to Report #2020-P-20 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, be approved; and

- B) That “Notice of Adoption” be sent to the applicant, the Township of Uxbridge, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and to all persons or public bodies who made a submission or requested notification of the decision.

CARRIED

## **6. Presentations**

### **6.1 Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, re: Durham Regional Cycling Plan Update – 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Status Summary (2020-P-22)**

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A. Caruso, participating electronically, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of Report #2020-P-22 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. Highlights of his presentation included:

- Developing the 2020 Regional Cycling Plan Update (RCPU)
- Overview of Summer Public Engagement
  - Summer Public Engagement Activities
  - Summer Survey Results: Overview
  - Bicycle Parking Survey Results
  - Maintenance Survey Results
  - Signage & Wayfinding Survey Results
  - Education & Encouragement Survey Results
- Primary Cycling Network (PCN) Update
  - Updating the PCN
  - Step 1: Level of Separation Results
  - Step 2: PCN Update & Status
  - Step 3: Identify and Confirm Facilities
- Cycling Strategy Review
  - Approach & Considerations
  - Draft Approaches (Bike Parking)
  - Draft Approaches (Signage)
  - Draft Approaches (Education)
  - Draft Approaches (Maintenance)
- Next Steps
  - Draft Phasing Overview – Reference Purpose Only
  - Draft Facility Type Overview – Reference Purpose Only

A. Caruso responded to questions with respect to the possibility of establishing consistent signage; the possibility of establishing consistent standards and guidelines; proposed cycling network linkages; and consultation with local active transportation committees.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2020-P-22 at this time.

7.2 Reports

C) Durham Regional Cycling Plan Update (RCPU) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Status Summary (2020-P-22)

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Report #2020-P-22 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
(53) That Report #2020-P-22 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.  
CARRIED

6. **Presentations**

6.2 Brandon Pickard, Tourism Manager, re: Recovery Video Series – Supporting Local Business (2020-EDT-7)

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B. Pickard, participating electronically, advised that the Economic Development and Tourism Division has released a “Support Local” video series and a “You Are Not Alone” video as part of their COVID 19 response. Ten videos were played for the Committee and are available on the Durham Tourism YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/user/DurhamTourism>).

B. Pickard responded to questions with respect to the goal of the video series; and how the videos will be promoted.

With the consensus of the Committee, the order of the agenda was altered to consider Report #2020-EDT-7 at this time.

8.2 Reports

A) Recovery Video Series – Supporting Local Business (2020-EDT-7)

Report #2020-EDT-7 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Highet, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
(54) That Report #2020-EDT-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.  
CARRIED

7. **Planning**

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

## 7.2 Reports

- A) Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by VicDom Sand and Gravel (Ontario) Ltd., to permit a new Aggregate Resource Extraction Area in the Township of Uxbridge, File: OPA 2014-008 (2020-P-20)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to pages 5 and 6 of these minutes.

- B) Project Update: VIA Rail Canada's proposal for High Frequency Rail Service between Quebec City and Toronto (2020-P-21)

Report #2020-P-21 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

G. Pereira responded to questions with respect to whether any public consultation has taken place; when background reports are expected to be available; whether it is realistic to have dedicated lines for each operator; whether there is a possibility of including additional stops for Durham residents; and whether it would be possible to expand GO service to north Durham on the CP Havelock line.

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by Councillor Yamada,  
(55) That Report #2020-P-21 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

- C) Durham Regional Cycling Plan Update (RCPU) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Status Summary (2020-P-22)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 7 of these minutes.

## 8. **Economic Development**

### 8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

### 8.2 Reports

- A) Recovery Video Series – Supporting Local Business (2020-EDT-7)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 7 of these minutes.

- B) Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project: Implementation Update (2020-EDT-8)

Report #2020-EDT-8 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.



Staff responded to questions with respect to feedback received from local food operators; and the possibility of permitting on-farm diversified uses through the municipal comprehensive review of the Regional Official Plan.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Highet,  
(56) That Report #2020-EDT-8 of the Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

C) Natural Resources Canada Small Nuclear Reactor Action Plan 2020  
(2020-EDT-9)

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This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to pages 3 to 5 of these minutes.

**9. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

**10. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**11. Other Business**

11.1 Natural Resources Canada Small Nuclear Reactor Action Plan 2020  
(2020-EDT-9)

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Councillor Foster referenced section 4.4 in Report #2020-EDT-9 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development and he expressed his opinion that the Region is well positioned to participate in all four pillars. He advised that Ontario Power Generation's Darlington Nuclear Generating Station is currently the only site licensed for new build and could be the demonstration site for a 300 megawatt small modular reactor. He noted that this license will need to be renewed, which the Region can help with, and there would be deployment. He also stated that the Region is a host community for the nuclear industry and has a huge amount of knowledge on that industry. He added that the Region has the ability to share our experiences and our confidence in the industry.

Councillor Ryan advised that Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is establishing the Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability in Pickering and that they are discussing the possibility of re-purposing the Pickering site for small modular reactors.

Report #2020-EDT-9 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to pages 3 to 5 of these minutes.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,  
(57) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

Respectfully submitted,

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D. Ryan, Chair

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T. Fraser, Committee Clerk