

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2020

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:35 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair, attended the meeting at 8:13 PM
T. Barrie, Clarington
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
B. Howsam, Member at Large
P. MacArthur, Oshawa
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
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
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
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural, Department of Planning and Economic Development
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

In the absence of the Committee Chair, T. Watpool chaired the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on October 13, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Discussion Items

A) Introductions: New Staff Liaison – Mike Scott, Project Planner

K. Allore-Engel announced that she has moved into a new role with the Planning and Economic Development Department and advised that M. Scott, Project Planner will be the Committee's new staff liaison. M. Scott introduced himself and provided the Committee with an overview of his work experience.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb advised of the following:

- Staff will be working on hosting a few annual general meetings for Durham Farm Fresh and Durham Farm Connections on the Microsoft Teams platform.
- Staff is supporting Durham Farm Connections with their re-branding initiative. A survey will be sent out in the near future to obtain input on the re-branding process.
- Staff is supporting the Works and Finance Departments with rolling out the Farm 911 Program (the Emily Project). They are encouraging people to contact their local municipality to get address signage for rural properties or more information.
- Staff is working with Durham Farm Fresh on a shop local initiative for the holiday season. This will be done through a series of videos with Durham Farm Fresh members and will offer some education around local products that are available throughout the winter season.

- Staff is supporting the rural municipalities of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock by offering the tools needed to encourage and promote agriculture as an economic driver in their community. They are in the process of developing an agri-food profile for Uxbridge.

A. Brown advised of the following:

- Staff is working with OMAFRA on a Speciality Crops Workshop. A survey was released to gather input from the agricultural community about crops of interest.
- Staff is working on a Mental Health Workshop for farmers this winter.
- Staff is working on a Succession Planning Workshop in partnership with Farm Credit Canada. More information will be available at the next meeting.
- Staff held an Information Night with Durham Health for the Durham Region employer of temporary foreign workers to get an opportunity to speak with Durham Health and address any concerns. There was great feedback and staff is looking to continue the conversation with another information session.
- Staff is working on highlighting existing agricultural career opportunities for Grade 10 high school students.
- The Municipality of Clarington is working on an on-farm special events by-law and will provide more information as it becomes available.

C) Clean Fuel Sub-Committee Update – D. Risebrough

D. Risebrough stated that Environment and Climate Change Canada is proposing a Clean Fuel Standards as part of the next phase of carbon tax reduction. He stated that the Ministry has released some pre cursors to the proposed land use regulations which has brought forward a number of concerns.

D. Risebrough stated that the subcommittee met on October 27th to review various documentation with regards to the policy, one of which was a PowerPoint presentation released by Environment Canada on September 2, 2020. The subcommittee also received a presentation from Grain Farmers of Ontario.

D. Risebrough stated that the subcommittee has 3 areas of concern as follows:

- the certification requirements of the proposed Clean Fuel Standards;

- the suggested set-back requirement from riparian zones and water bodies; and
- previously protected areas (ie. lands that have been cleared).

He stated that although there are concerns, the final proposed regulations have not yet been released and until they are, there is nothing to respond to. He advised that the subcommittee's recommendation is that the DAAC committee wait until there is more information on the proposed regulations before commenting.

Discussion ensued with regards to the possibility of writing to the Durham MPs to advise that DAAC will be requesting substantial time for comment on the topic. It was the consensus of the committee to not take any action until the release of further information by Environment Canada. It was stated that the draft regulations are anticipated to be released for comment by the end of 2020.

K. Allore was asked what other regions or municipalities are doing with regards to the issue and she advised that she will reach out to Janet Horner of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance for some feedback to be reported back at the next meeting.

D) DAAC Farm Tour Award Submissions: Economic Developers Council of Ontario, Awards of Excellence and Durham Farm Connections, Celebrate Agriculture

K. Allore-Engel advised that she has received great feedback on the Virtual Farm Tour that was held this year. She advised that there has been a lot of inquiries from different organizations with regards to how everything was pulled together. She further advised that staff has worked together to enter the video for the following awards: Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO); Award of Excellence; and Durham Farm Connections - Celebrate Agriculture.

K. Allore-Engel thanked Councillor Highet for his letter of support and advised that a letter of support was also provided by Janet Horner of The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance for the Durham Farm Connections entry.

E) DAAC Farm Tour Video Requests

At this time Z. Cohoon attended the meeting and chaired the meeting.

K. Allore-Engel stated that there has been a lot of interest in the Virtual Farm Tour video and has received inquiries from Municipality of Clarington staff, The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, Farm Connections, and School Boards. She inquired what the committee's thoughts were with regards to sharing the video to some of the groups.

Discussion ensued with regards to the importance of not having the video streamed on social media sites and that it only be made available by request. It was also discussed that since the video showcased farms belonging to T. Watpool and H. Schillings, that their approval be sought before sharing the video.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by P. MacArthur,
That any sharing of the 2020 DAAC Virtual Farm Tour video be specially approved by T. Watpool, H. Schillings and Z. Cohoon, the Chair of DAAC.

CARRIED

Permission was then sought to share the 2020 DAAC Virtual Farm Video in a password protected format to Economic Development Council of Ontario; Durham Farm Connections; the Golden Horseshoe Food Farming Alliance; and Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee.

5. Information Items

There were no Information Items.

6. Other Business

A) Share the Road Signage

D. Risebrough stated that Share the Road signage in Scugog has changed and seems to be losing its effectiveness. K. Allore-Engel advised that there will be a presentation from the Works Department at the January DAAC meeting and suggested that this issue be brought up at that time.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 starting at 7:30 PM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Watpool,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk