

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**December 8, 2020**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

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

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair  
T. Barrie, Clarington  
N. Guthrie, Member at Large  
G. Highet, Regional Councillor  
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  
B. Smith, Uxbridge  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair  
B. Winter, Ajax, attended the meeting at 7:38 PM

**\*members of the Committee participated electronically**

Councillor Highet appeared on behalf of Councillor Bath-Hadden as the alternate for the Committee.

Absent: K. Kemp, Scugog  
K. Kennedy, Member at Large

#### **Staff**

Present: K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
A. Yearwood, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
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

**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 November 10, 2020 be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentations**

The presentation from Ashley Yearwood, Project Planner, Region of Durham re: Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol was heard at this time.

**B) Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol – Ashley Yearwood, Project Planner, Region of Durham**

Ashley Yearwood, Project Planner, Region of Durham provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol (SGAP).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- History
- What is the Region's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol (SGAP)?
- Which Legislation Helps Enforce the SGAP?
- Streamlining Agricultural Development Protocols
- Next Steps

A. Yearwood stated that the SGAP reviews all subsurface and at-grade conditions of a property through a development application circulated to the Region and ensures subsurface and at-grade site conditions do not pose a threat to human health and the environment. He stated that the Environmental Protection Act helps to enforce the SGAP. He also stated that on-site and excess soil management is not reviewed by the Region but through the area municipalities. He further stated that agricultural uses are typically classified as the most sensitive land use.

A. Yearwood provided a comparison of the current Protocol and the proposed 2021 Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol as it relates to the agricultural community. He advised that the consultation period ends December 29, 2020 and the Protocol will be presented to the Region's Planning and Economic development Committee on February 2, 2021.

A. Yearwood responded to questions with regards to the whether the effects of groundwater conditions on agricultural land from subdivisions are taken into consideration; the building of new agricultural buildings such as barns etc.; the use of new fill; applications when severing a house; and, why agriculture is considered the most sensitive land use.

A) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA) Action Plan – Janet Horner, Executive Director, GHFFA

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Janet Horner, Executive Director, Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA), provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the GHFFA Action Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance
- The Golden Horseshoe: At a Glance
- Methods
  - A New Action Plan
  - Interviews
- Key Findings
  - Summit
  - Securing the Region's Agricultural System for Long-term Viability
  - Agri-food Cluster Growth and Resilience
- Action Plan
  - Food, Farming & Sustainability
  - The Vision
  - By the Numbers
  - Goals A, B and C

J. Horner stated that the GHFFA is a not-for-profit partnership among municipalities, agricultural groups, educational institutions, and provincial ministries that co-ordinates projects and efforts to support the agri-food sector in the Golden Horseshoe. She advised that in 2012, the Alliance produced an Action Plan to set goals and guide activities over a 10-year period.

J. Horner stated that in 2019, the Alliance recognized the need for a new Action Plan and advised that the new plan will build off the successes of the previous action plan and respond to recent trends. She also stated that the new plan will address changes in economic, social, and environmental trends since the first Action Plan to support and strengthen the Golden Horseshoe agri-food sector.

J. Horner provided an overview of the key findings with regards to: agri-food cluster food and resilience; securing the Region's agricultural system for long term viability; and food, farming and sustainability.

With regards to the Action Plan, she stated that there is one vision, three goals, eight objectives, 40 actions and 33 alliance led actions. She advised that the long-term vision is that the Golden Horseshoe be globally renowned as a vibrant and sustainable agri-food cluster, characterized by profitable farming operations of all sizes, a thriving hub of food processing and food retail, extensive research capacity, and innovative technology. She stated that the three goals of the action plan are as follows and provided objectives and action items with regards to each specific goal:

- Goal A: The GHFFA is recognized as the leading organization with expertise on food and farming issues and opportunities in the Golden Horseshoe Region of Ontario;
- Goal B: Establish the Golden Horseshoe as Canada's leading innovative agriculture and agri-food cluster; and
- Goal C: Enable the agri-food cluster to support sustainability outcomes.

J. Horner responded to questions regarding the Bill 6 legislation and what DAAC and farming organizations can do to counteract the Bill.

B) Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol – Ashley Yearwood, Project Planner, Region of Durham

This Item was considered earlier in the meeting. See Item 4.B) on pages 2 and 3 of these minutes.

**5. Discussion Items**

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb advised of the following:

- Staff has partnered with Farm Credit Canada and is working on a succession planning workshop to be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM;
- Staff has partnered with Durham Farm Fresh to do a specialty crops workshop;
- Staff is planning on hosting a mental health workshop with the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture in February 2021;
- Staff is starting an initiative around careers and agriculture. Staff has reached out to the Durham District School Board and is looking into the development of videos highlighting different career options in the agriculture sector to be presented to Grade 10 students; and

- Staff is supporting Durham Farm Fresh and Durham Farm Connections on their Annual General Meeting. Durham Farm Connections has a survey to provide input on their branding, committee members are encouraged to provide input.

B) 2020 DAAC Workplan and DAAC Terms of Reference

The 2020 DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference were provided as Attachments #2 and #3 to the Agenda.

M. Scott requested that members review the Workplan and Terms of Reference and provide comments to him prior to the next meeting. He advised that any comments and/or amendments will be discussed then.

C) COVID-19 Update: Virtual Meetings

M. Scott advised that Regional headquarters will be closed to the public until March 2021 and meetings will continue to be held virtually.

**6. Information Items**

A) Mayor Bath-Hadden Leave of Absence

M. Scott advised that Councillor Bath-Hadden will be on a medical leave of absence. The committee was advised that Councillor Highet is the Council appointed alternate member for the committee.

B) 2020-P-24 Envision Durham – Framework for a New Regional Official Plan

Report #2020-P-24 re: Envision Durham – Framework for a New Regional Official Plan, was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received for information.

C) 2020-P-19 Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol

Report #2020-P-19 re: Review of the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol, was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received for information.

**7. Other Business**

A) DAAC Farm Tour 2021

K. Allore advised that the 2021 DAAC Farm Tour may be held virtually.

B) Permission to show 2020 DAAC Farm Tour Video

M. Scott requested permission to provide the 2020 DAAC Farm Tour Video to Marlene Werry of Durham College. The request was approved by T. Watpool, H. Schillings and Z. Cohoon.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by F. Puterbough,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk