

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 21, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 21, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
S. Clearwater, Whitby
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair
C. Doody-Hamilton, Member at Large
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa attended the meeting at 7:17 PM
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large
M. Thompson, Ajax
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: R. Dickinson, Brock
K. Murray, Member at Large
B. Shipp, Member at Large
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby

Staff

Present: G. Anello, Director of Waste Management Services, Works Department
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department

2. Elections of Officers for 2021

Election of the DEAC Chair

S. Glover, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That G. Carpentier be nominated for the position of Chair of the
Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That nominations be closed.
CARRIED

S. Glover asked if G. Carpentier wished to stand. G. Carpentier indicated he wished to stand.

G. Carpentier was acclaimed to the position of Chair.

Election of the DEAC First and Second Vice-Chairs

S. Glover, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the positions of First and Second Vice-Chair of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That K. Lui be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the
Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved by K. Lui, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That J. Cuthbertson be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of
the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That nominations be closed.
CARRIED

S. Glover asked if K. Lui and J. Cuthbertson wished to stand. K. Lui and J. Cuthbertson indicated they wished to stand.

K. Lui and J. Cuthbertson were acclaimed to the positions of First and Second Vice-Chair, respectively.

G. Carpentier assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the agenda for the January 21, 2021 DEAC meeting, as
presented, be approved.
CARRIED

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,
November 19, 2020, be adopted.
CARRIED

6. Presentations

A) Proposed Blue Box Regulation, Waste Services Division

G. Anello, Director of Waste Management Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Proposed Blue Box Regulations.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Background
- Proposed Designated Materials
- Responsible Producer and Servicing
- Servicing Requirements
- Durham Region Impacts
 - Transition
 - Business Improvement Areas
 - Compostable Packaging
 - Promotion and Education
 - Material Recovery Facility
- Conclusion

G. Anello responded to questions from the Committee regarding who will be responsible for picking up the blue box materials; the future need for larger Material Resource Facilities (MRF), and the potential for Durham's MRF to be leased during the transition period; how companies such as Amazon would have their products packaging retrieved; and how often would collection occur (every week as of now or move to bi-weekly).

In response to a question from the Committee regarding who would enforce the penalties prescribed by the Province, G. Anello advised that he would look into that and follow-up with A. Luqman directly.

7. Items for Discussion/Input

A) Membership Replacement Update

G. Carpentier welcomed C. Doody-Hamilton to the DEAC Committee as the new Member-at-Large.

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

J. Cuthbertson advised that the Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner's Guide is nearing completion. He advised the G. Carpentier volunteered to review the document and edit where required.

A. Luqman advised that she hopes to have a draft of the guide ready for the February DEAC meeting.

C) Spring Bee Pollinator Seedling Distribution Project

A. Luqman advised that there may be an opportunity to partner with the Waste department this year and re-initiate this project. She advised that she would reach out to G. Layton and J. Cuthbertson to see if they were still interested in arranging the details.

C. Doody-Hamilton expressed interest in participating in this project and asked whether it was related to a David Suzuki project. She added that she could share the information that she has on this topic with the group.

D) Town of Whitby Bridge and Culvert Master Plan Environmental Study Report – Notice of Completion

A. Luqman advised that the Town of Whitby Bridge and Culvert Master Plan Environmental Study Report – Notice of Completion was available for comment and that she would email it to the Committee members.

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of any reference to green infrastructure as a possible alternative to the proposed building of bigger culverts and bridges. The Committee questioned why an environmental assessment (EA) wouldn't be completed prior to replacing the bridges and culverts as opposed to delaying the EA until after the replacements as stated in the Environmental Study Report. The Committee expressed interest in submitting formal comments as a Committee.

A. Luqman advised that comments would be due January 31, 2021 but that she would look into whether there were other options as their comments as DEAC would need to be presented to the Planning & Economic Development Committee and subsequently Regional Council; and whether there could be a presentation on the topic at the February DEAC meeting.

8. For Information

A) Commissioner's Report # 2020-COW-30 – Proposed Blue Box Regulations

A copy of Report #2020-COW-30 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

S. Clearwater raised concerns regarding the Region stating that there is a problematic nature to compostable packing, and that she thinks compostable plastic would be a good idea and not a problem. Discussion ensued amongst the Committee that the issue with compostable packaging is the variability of the product and that it would have to meet a certain standard to be compostable.

B) Commissioner's Report # 2020-P-23 – DEAC Member-at-large Membership Appointment

A copy of Report #2020-P-23 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received as Attachment #4 to the agenda.

C) Building a Brighter Tomorrow – OPG Climate Change Plan

A copy of the Building a Brighter Tomorrow – OPG Climate Change Plan was received as Attachment #5 to the agenda.

D) Commissioner's Report #2020-COW-33 – Regional Response to the Provincial Flooding Strategy and Follow-Up Report

A copy of Report #2020-COW-33 of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Follow-Up Report was received as Attachment #6 and #6b to the agenda.

E) Commissioner's Report #2020-P-25 – Clarington Minister's Zoning Order

A copy of Report #2020-P-25 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received as Attachment #7 to the agenda.

F) DAAC minutes from December meeting

A copy of the December 8, 2020 DAAC meeting minutes was received as Attachment #8 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding Ashley Yearwood's presentation with respect to the Region of Durham's Soil and Groundwater Assessment Protocol and how excess soil management is not reviewed by the Region but through the local municipalities.

- G) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-125 – Update on Proposed Upgrades at the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Related to the Outfall Environmental Assessment and the Phosphorous Reductions Action Plan

A copy of Report #2020-P-25 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #9 to the agenda.

- H) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-123 – Active and Sustainable School Travel Program Update

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-123 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received as Attachment #10 to the agenda.

- I) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-117 – Update on Regional Road 18 Pilot Reconstruction Project using Recycled Waste Materials

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-117 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #11 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential use of bottom ash and recycled plastics in the granular base of new asphalt and what the possible implications may be with using bottom ash. Section 2.4 of Report #2020-INFO-117 stated that testing is planned for the winter which will confirm how the recycled materials will be incorporated as well as their quantities.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the risk of using bottom ash as an aggregate replacement or substitute, A. Luqman advised that she would reach out to Works staff for the answer, as well as ask for clarification that there would not be leaching into the groundwater if bottom ash is used in asphalt.

- J) Commissioner's Report #2020-INFO-113 – Update on the Federal Government's Single Use Plastics Plan to Achieve Zero Plastic by 2030

A copy of Report #2020-INFO-113 of the Commissioner of Works was received as Attachment #12 to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding whether compostable plastics would be a good solution; whether there is too much focus on composting and making money from composting, as opposed to coming up with solutions; and how composting is a way for homeowners to manage their yard waste.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by J. Cuthbertson,
That Information Items 8A) and 8J) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Durham Environmental Achievement Awards

A. Luqman asked the Committee whether they would be interested in hosting a virtual Durham Environmental Achievement Awards this year or whether they would be interested in recognizing individuals/organizations now and then host an in-person event in the future.

The Committee decided that they would like to recognize the individuals/organizations now. A. Luqman advised that she would need to prepare an ad to publish in the newspapers to start collecting nominations, and that the subcommittee could meet to discuss next steps.

A. Luqman advised that she would follow up with B. Shipp and R. Dickinson to see whether they are still interested in continuing their roles on the Durham Environmental Achievement Awards Subcommittee. G. Layton and K. Lui advised that they would continue to sit on the subcommittee.

B) Youth and Post-Secondary Membership Replacements

A. Luqman advised that a report will be presented to the February Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval with nominations for 2 youth members and one post-secondary member to fill the current vacancies.

C) Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Committee Next Meeting

S. Clearwater advised that the next Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Committee meeting will be held February 4, 2021 from 3-5pm.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

G. Carpentier, Chair, Durham
Environmental Advisory Committee

S. Glover, Committee Clerk