

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**March 9, 2021**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:30 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

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

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair  
T. Barrie, Clarington  
G. Highet, Regional Councillor  
B. Howsam, Member at Large  
K. Kemp, Scugog, attended the meeting at 7:40 PM  
P. MacArthur, Oshawa, attended the meeting at 7:45 PM  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:49 PM  
F. Puterbough, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:36 PM  
H. Schillings, Whitby  
B. Smith, Uxbridge  
G. Taylor, Pickering, Vice-Chair, attended the meeting at 7:43 PM  
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair  
B. Winter, Ajax  
**\*members of the Committee participated electronically**

Also

Present: Councillor Smith, Regional Councillor

Absent: N. Guthrie, Member at Large  
K. Kennedy, Member at Large

Staff

Present: \*K. Allore-Engel, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
\*A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator, 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

\*Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Design, Works  
Department

\*N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

\*denotes staff participating electronically

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

H. Schillings made a declaration of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* with respect to Item 4. A) Presentation from Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Design re: Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects, as he has ongoing issues with a roads project that affects his property.

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by F. Puterbough, Seconded by B. Smith,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee  
meeting held on February 16, 2021 be adopted.  
CARRIED

## **4. Presentation**

### **A) Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Design, Durham Region Works Department, Durham Region re: Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects**

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Ron Trewin, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Design, Durham Region Works Department, provided a PowerPoint Presentation with regards to an Update on Regional Roads and Infrastructure Projects.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Regional Municipality of Durham Roads Capital Program
- 2021 Budget – Strategic Priorities
  - Environment sustainability
  - Community vitality
  - Economic Prosperity
  - Social Investment
  - COVID-19 Response
- 2020 Accomplishments
  - Service Improvements
  - Vision Zero (Works Measures)
  - Customer Service
- 2021 Proposed Expenditures and Financing
- Anticipated Major Road Capital Works this year
- Proposed 2021 Road Rehabilitation Projects
- Proposed 2021 Structures Rehabilitation/Replacement Projects

- Proposed 2021 Traffic Programs
- Vision Zero (Works Measures)
- Road Projects in Clarington and Uxbridge/Brock
  - Taunton Road Reconstruction from Townline Road to east of Regional Road 57
  - Taunton Road Intersection Reconstruction at Langmaid Road
  - Taunton Road Two way Left Turn from Langmaid Rd to Enfield Road
  - Taunton Road Roundabout at Courtice Road
  - Taunton Road Roundabout at Solina Road
  - Taunton Road Intersection Upgrade at Holt Road
  - Taunton Road Intersection Upgrade at Green Road/King Lane
  - Taunton Road Future Roundabout at Old Scugog Road
  - Taunton Road Roundabout at Bowmanville Road (RR57)
  - Roundabouts and Farm Vehicles
  - Regional Rd 3 and Regional Rd 57
  - Regional Road 3 Reconstruction
- Road Standards
- Rural Driveway Entrances
- Drainage, Culverts and Structures
- Construction Staging

R. Trewin stated that focus of the presentation is on rural and semi-rural projects proposed over the next few years in Durham that include reconstruction and upgrades and not just road pavement rehabilitation projects.

With regards to service improvements, R. Trewin advised that the Works Department has accomplished a lot including how many kilometers have been rehabilitated. He advised that Vision Zero is a big initiative which aims to bring fatal collisions down to zero. The Vision Zero initiative includes: engineering intersection measures; pedestrian improvements; guiderail expansion; safety reviews and implementation; county curves (skewed intersections); and roundabouts. The Works Department is also looking at enforcement, education, and collision outcomes.

R. Trewin also advised that they are working hard on customer service issues such as the winter maintenance program and traffic lights. With regards to anticipated major road capital works for 2021, he advised that the majority of projects are rural and provided an overview of a detailed list. He advised that staff has also been investing in structures in rural areas over the last number of years.

R. Trewin advised that roundabouts are being designed to accommodate large farm vehicles and that a large farm vehicle/equipment will be able to maneuver in any direction using the “truck apron” around the center island, semi mountable external curbs, and paved boulevards. He also advised that signs will be set back to provide adequate clearance. With regards to drainage, culverts and structures, he advised that the Region is reviewing culvert sizes for larger rainfalls and spring runoff events; culvert sizes are being reviewed when replaced to ensure sufficient capacity; culvert sizes may be increased in size to reduce flooding and to provide improved wildlife passage; many structures are being rehabilitated and lengthened if required; and guiderail and parapet walls are being added to improve safety.

R. Trewin responded to questions with regards to the roundabout on Taunton and Courtice Road and whether an agricultural assessment was done on that project. He also responded to questions with regards to Regional Road 42 and whether improvements can be made to the surface of the road so heavy tractors won't break the edges of the pavement off; and the need to slow traffic on Simcoe Street in Scugog as it's a major commuter route.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update**

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S. Jibb provided the following update:

- Staff is working on the Durham Region Food Hub project which will include a few components such as: local food processing; commercial kitchen space; distribution; indoor farmer's market; business start up accelerator space; and event and agriculture education space. A steering committee will be developed and any interested committee members are encouraged to contact S. Jibb.
- Staff is working on developing formal comments for the proposed policy directions released and will be focusing on rural systems and on farm diversification.
- Councillor Highet is the newly appointed representative to the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance. Staff is working with him to help him get familiar with the group.
- The 4-part Specialty Crop Workshop Series has come to an end and a report will be presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in April 2021.

A. Brown provided the following update:

- Staff will begin filming the agricultural career video series in spring 2021. The series will showcase agricultural careers to students participating in the Careers and Civics classes in high schools.

- Staff is starting to prepare for the Gates Open event this October 2021.
- Staff will be hosting a webinar with Durham Farm Fresh and Canatrace on March 18, 2021 at 7:30 PM. Canatrace is a free health screening platform for businesses to use to track employees' health screening and visitor health screening. There is a huge benefit to those doing screening of migrant workers as it is also bilingual.

B) DAAC Farm Tour

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D. Risebrough advised that Goodyear Farms has decided to not proceed with the Virtual Farm Tour in 2021 as they are more interested in hosting an in-person tour, which is not feasible in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

D. Risebrough advised that the subcommittee has reached out to Smalley's Produce, which is a potato farm, and they are agreeable to being the host site for the Virtual Farm Tour for 2021.

D. Risebrough provided some background information on Smalley's Produce. He advised that their potatoes are grown for the table industry and they are leaders in production techniques. He stated that it would be a great opportunity to showcase them and their operations at the Virtual Farm Tour. He advised that logistics, details and content will be worked out in coming weeks and months and it was suggested that taping start in the spring to capture the entire process from seed to table.

Z. Cohoon requested that S. Jibb and A. Brown assist with planning details of the virtual farm tour.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by G. O'Connor,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee is in support of  
having Smalley's Produce as the highlighted farm for the 2021  
Virtual Farm Tour.

CARRIED

C) Report #2021-INFO-24 – Proposed Federal Clean Fuel Standards  
Regulations – Land Use and Biodiversity – M. Scott

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A link to Report #2021-INFO-24 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

M. Scott confirmed that he met with federal representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and confirmed that the three areas of concern raised by the DAAC sub-committee regarding the Proposed Clean Fuel Regulations would be resolved. He advised that the Report details those discussions and the conclusion is that the new regulations resolves the concerns raised.

D) OPA 2021-001 Clark Consulting Services Application

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A copy of the Application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan from Clark Consulting Services to permit the severance of non-abutting surplus farm dwellings as a result of the consolidation of Agricultural Lands in the Municipality of Clarington was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the proposed severance, specifically the committee's objection to the irregular shaped lot. They noted that although the lot appeared to be irregular for the purposes of encompassing the well, it was not realistic from a farm machinery movement perspective.

It was requested that the committee be added to the interested parties list for the related land division application, so they can continue to be informed of the final lot configuration.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Clark Consulting Services to permit the severance of non-abutting surplus farm dwellings as a result of the consolidation of Agricultural Lands in the Municipality of Clarington, subject to concerns raised with respect to the odd configuration of the proposed parcel around the well.

CARRIED

E) Report #2021-P-7 – Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions

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A link to Report #2021-P-7 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda.

M. Scott stated that the Proposed Policy Directions are being released for public and agency comment and comments are due by June 30, 2021. He suggested that the committee review the document and receive a presentation from K. Allore-Engel, MCR Rural System Team Lead, at the April meeting.

**6. Information Items**

A) Report #2021-INFO-7 – Durham Region Farm 911 Project

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A link to Report #2021-INFO-7 of the Commissioner of Finance re: the Durham Region Farm 911 Project was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

B) Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt – ERO Number 019-2136

A link to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt was provided and received.

Discussion ensued with regards to the following:

- Consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt by adding, or expanding urban river valleys;
- Concerns with Bill 257 and non-compliance issues with provincial policy statements;
- The possibility of Planning Department staff providing a summary of Bill 257 to the committee at a future meeting as it needs to be looked at from a farming prospective; and
- The importance of continuing to watch what is happening with the Greenbelt as landowners and farmers are greatly affected.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business to be considered.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by K. Kemp,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk