

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**June 8, 2021**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:33 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  
N. Guthrie, Member at Large  
G. Highet, Regional Councillor  
B. Howsam, Member at Large  
P. MacArthur, Oshawa  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large  
H. Schillings, Whitby  
B. Smith, Uxbridge  
G. Taylor, Pickering, Vice-Chair  
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair  
B. Winter, Ajax

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

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

#### **Staff**

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture and Rural, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
L. Malyjasiak, Technician, Waste Management, Region of Durham Works Department  
A. Porteous, Supervisor, Waste Management, Region of Durham Works Department  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\*all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by B. Winter,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee  
meeting held on May 11, 2021 be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentation**

A) Laura Malyjasiak & Angela Porteous, Region of Durham Works Department  
– Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021 - 2040

Laura Malyjasiak and Angela Porteous, Region of Durham Works  
Department presented a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Long-Term  
Waste Management Plan 2021-2040.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Long-term Waste Management Plan Draft Targets and Actions
- Council Approved Guiding Principles
- Council Approved Vision
- Council Approved Objectives
- Targets and Actions
- Next Steps
- Discussion – Targets and Actions

A. Porteous stated that the following are the Council approved guiding principles:

- Emphasize rethink, reduce and reuse principles as the first steps in reducing waste generation
- Deliver cost effective waste management services to a rapidly growing and diverse population
- Work with producers and importers of designated products and packaging to implement extended producer responsibility and adjust Region waste programs as required
- Apply innovative approaches to Regional waste streams to manage them as resources in a circular economy
- Demonstrate leadership in sustainability to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from waste management activities

A. Porteous also advised that the following are the 5 Council approved objectives:

1. Engage with residents to build an understanding and awareness of the 5 Rs (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover) and the Region's waste management programs and services;
2. Reduce the quantity of waste we create;
3. Increase diversion of waste from disposal and support the Circular Economy;
4. Support the Region's greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation efforts; and
5. Protect or improve water, land, and air quality in Durham Region.

She further advised that the next step in the process are the targets and actions. Targets are developed to meet the objectives; measurements are identified to assess the progress of meeting the targets; and actions are developed to contribute to meeting the target. With regards to each of the Council approved objectives, she provided an overview of the proposed targets.

A. Porteous stated that consultations are being done with Advisory Committees in May and June with public consultation to be done in the fall. Additional revisions will be based on consultations prior to presenting the draft Waste Plan with the proposed targets and action plan to Regional Council for approval.

A. Porteous responded to questions with regards to illegal dumping and whether there is anything aimed at educating residents on illegal dumping; why the focus seems to be on residential and not commercial waste; and why residents are not held accountable for their own waste.

## **5. Discussion Items**

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

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S. Jibb provided the following update:

- Local Food Week is June 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> in Ontario and there is a big marketing campaign encouraging residents to look for local food as well as promoting Durham Farm Fresh
- The Local Food Hub Project is well underway; a survey has been distributed to local food producers to help refine the focus of the project
- Staff will be working with M. Scott with regards to drafting the script and background work for the 2021 DAAC Farm Tour

- Staff is working with K. Allore-Engel on the Envision Durham Proposed Policy Directions

B) DAAC Farm Tour

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Z. Cohoon advised that plans for the 2021 Farm Tour is progressing well. He confirmed that filming of the potato planting process was done on May 14<sup>th</sup> with the use of a drone as well as virtual reality cameras. He also confirmed that aerial photos were taken.

Discussion ensued with regards to possible themes for the Farm Tour and it was the consensus of the committee that the theme be: Cut, Grow, Harvest and Enjoy.

C) DAAC Proposed Policy Directions Response

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M. Scott advised that the subcommittee met to discuss the Envision Durham Proposed Policy Directions that was presented at the April 2021 meeting and provided an overview of the following subcommittee's comments for the committee's review and approval:

With regards to Incorporate Provincial Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Prime Agricultural Areas into the ROP:

- Promote and protect a full range of agricultural, agriculture related and on farm diversified uses as permitted, based on provincial Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas
  - Agree – farmers need support to encourage these uses on site and when proposals are made to diversify their operation. The definition should be clear and support the agricultural industry when establishing uses
- Ensure agriculture related uses and on farm diversified uses are compatible with and will not hinder surrounding agricultural operations
  - Agree
- Require the use is appropriate based on available rural services (e.g. do not require the level of road access, water and wastewater servicing, utilities, fire protection and other public services typically found in settlement areas)
  - Agree
- Ensure that on farm diversified uses are clearly secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property
  - Agree
- Manage the scale of on farm diversified uses by ensuring they don't occupy more than two per cent of the property on which the uses are located, to a maximum of one hectare
  - There may need to be some flexibility here, one hectare may not be enough space to accommodate the use
  - If a farmer has more than one farm property, should this be considered in the calculation?

- Monitor the cumulative impact of on farm diversified uses throughout the Region
  - Agree
- Agriculture related and on farm diversified proposals to be considered by amendment to the applicable zoning bylaw
  - Scale is important here, but it should be supportive of farming operations
- Require that area municipal official plans include detailed policies to limit the scale of on farm diversified uses and address their compatibility with surrounding uses
  - Suggest changing the word “limit” to “balance” – on farm diversified uses should be encouraged, not limited

With regards to Non-Abutting Surplus Farm Dwelling:

- Add a definition for “bona fide farmer”
  - ~~\*Bona-fide farmer:~~ meaning someone who ~~derives their primary source of income from farming and~~ can demonstrate their activities are consistent with the definition of agricultural uses
  - How will this be enforced?
  - If they have a farm business registration number then they should qualify
  - The qualification for income doesn’t work, there are other sources of income for some farmers and that should not disqualify them
  - Many operations are diverse, and income would be hard to qualify
- Farm consolidation shall have been completed prior to the time of application
  - Agree
  - Lot line adjustments should happen prior
  - Lands that are owned personally and through the corporation have difficulties through this process – lot line adjustments may be more appropriate
- The maximum size of the surplus dwelling lot shall be the size required for private servicing, minimizing to the extent possible, the amount of land taken out of agricultural production
  - Should allow lot sizing for best agricultural use. If it is bigger than 1ha then that still works
  - There would be difficulties turning equipment in odd shaped lots. Flexibility is needed to make sure this works for the farmer and their operation
- Shape and dimensions of the surplus farm dwelling lot shall not impede agricultural operations on the retained land; and, generally not exceed a certain depth (i.e. 122 metres (400 ft))
  - Generally, lollypop severances are not a good idea. Some work, and some do not

- Entrance approvals are an issue. Another access approval should be included. Farm and house access should be separate
- Discourage fragmentation, a cumulative total of one severance is permitted for each lot. All consents granted on or after the approval of the first ROP (1978) are to be included in the calculation of the cumulative total
  - There are some issues with this
  - DAAC needs more information on this, has this happened in the past?
- Investigate the delegation of planning approvals for non abutting surplus farm dwelling severances to the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
  - Agree
  - This process should be faster, this could help. Having less applications is important – one application process would help
  - The Land Division process is not effective, and often road widening requests come late in the process, there should be more certainty earlier in the process (7 days min)

With regards to Implementing provincial Agricultural System and Agri food network:

- This will be discussed later in the summer/fall

With regards to enhanced aggregate resource rehabilitation requirements, including that Agricultural Impact Assessments, to require rehabilitation back to an agricultural condition for sites in Prime Agricultural Areas and incorporating relevant Greenbelt Plan rehabilitation policies

- Agree

General comments provided included:

- Agricultural industry are stewards of the land base, who make significant sustainable economic contributions to their local community
- There are significant challenges moving goods throughout the region, especially on north/south routes
- Coordination between levels of government through effective agricultural policy is important in supporting a vibrant agricultural sector
- It is important to create an environment that supports a thriving agricultural industry
- Attracting supportive industries and businesses (processing, etc.) should be a priority in this review

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by P. MacArthur,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee approves the  
comments as proposed by the DAAC subcommittee with regards to  
the Envision Durham Proposed Policy Directions.

CARRIED

D) ROPA 2021-002 – Motion Clarification

A copy of the Early Release Report #2021-P-\*\* from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Public Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Johnston Litavski Ltd. for Sunrise International Investments Inc. to permit the redevelopment of Bunker Hill Golf Course (formerly Kinsale Golf Course), in the City of Pickering, was provided as Attachment #2 to the April 13, 2021 Agenda.

M. Scott advised that the Applicant has requested more clarification behind the Committee's motion to not support the application.

It was the consensus of the Committee that it does not agree with the removal or switching of prime agricultural land to open space as it does not meet the criteria of serving agriculture.

**6. Information Items**

A) Report #2021-EDT-4 – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association 2021 Workplace and Ontario Local Food Week

A copy of Report #2021-EDT-4 – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association 2021 Workplace and Ontario Local Food Week was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

**7. Other Business**

Z. Cohoon called for a moment of silence to honour recent tragedies with regards to a family lost to a hate crime as well as the discovery of indigenous children's remains on the site of a residential school.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by T. Barrie,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham  
Agricultural Advisory Committee

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N. Prasad, Committee Clerk