

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 14, 2021

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 14, 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
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
G. Highet, Regional Councillor
G. O'Connor, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:46 PM
F. Puterbough, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
G. Taylor, Pickering, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax
***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
B. Smith, Uxbridge
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: 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, Assistant Secretary to Council, 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 F. Puterbough, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on June 8, 2021 be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The Agriculture Careers Video Project is covering a series of different careers in agriculture and will be featured in Grade 10 Civics and Careers classes across multiple school boards.
- Information Report #2021-INFO-63 regarding Investigating Potential for a Local Food Logistics Hub and Innovation Centre is provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and provides an overview of the project. S. Jibb advised that staff is working with a consultant with regards to a business case.
- The Rural Economic Development (RED) Program is open for applications until October 1st and staff is interested in applying for an agriculture mentorship program. The RED program provides cost-share funding for projects that support and strengthen rural communities and the application will be done jointly with Peterborough County, Northumberland County, City of Kawartha Lakes and York Region. S. Jibb requested a letter of support from DAAC to strengthen the application.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by T. Barrie,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee provide a letter of
support to the Region of Durham Planning and Economic
Development Department for a Rural Economic Development grant
application for an agriculture mentorship program.
CARRIED

B) DAAC Farm Tour

Z. Cohoon advised that the filming and editing of the video is complete. He confirmed that the subcommittee met prior to this meeting to review and make minor edits. M. Scott was requested to send a copy of the final video to all committee members to review the video before the release date.

Z. Cohoon advised that a new feature of the virtual Farm Tour will allow the audience to send in their questions, which will be moderated and answered, and will provide a greater level of interaction.

C) OPA 2021-006 – The Biglieri Group Application

A copy of Report #2021-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Wichcoron Holding Limited, to permit the establishment of a golf course in the Town of Whitby, File: OPA 2021-006, was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

M. Scott advised that the property is to the east of the Devil's Den Golf Course and the applicant is applying to add seven more holes to the course which will roll into existing facilities on the west side of the course. The proposed land is currently designated as Major Open Space in the Region's Official Plan but is designated Prime Agriculture in the Provincial Agricultural System.

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee does not support the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Wichcoron Holding Limited, to permit the establishment of a golf course in the Town of Whitby, File: OPA 2021-006.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY ON THE
FOLLOWING RECORDED VOTE:

Yes

Tom Barrie
Neil Guthrie
Councillor Highet
Gerri-Lynn O'Connor
Frazer Puterbough
Dave Risebrough
Hubert Schillings
Gord Taylor
Zac Cohoon

No

None

Members Absent:

Brad Howsam
Kevin Kemp
Keith Kennedy
Bryan Smith
Tom Watpool
Buck Winter

Declarations of Interest: None

D) OPA 2021-007 – Visser's Sod Farm Application

A copy of Report #2021-P-18 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Vissers Sod Farm to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus to a farming operation as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Municipality of Clarington File: OPA 2021-007, was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

Moved by H. Schillings, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Vissers Sod Farm to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus to a farming operation as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels in the Municipality of Clarington File: OPA 2021-007.

CARRIED

5. Information Items

A) OPA 2021-003 – Envision Durham: Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment – Policies and Delineations for Protected Major Transit Station Areas

A copy of Report #2021-P-21 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham: Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment – Policies and Delineations for Protected Major Transit Station Areas, was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

It was requested that a future presentation be provided to members with regards to the major transit areas as transportation is a major part of agriculture.

B) Report #2021-INFO-63 – Investigating Potential for a Local Food Logistics Hub and Innovation Centre

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-63 from the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Investigating Potential for a Local Food Logistics Hub and Innovation Center was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

S. Jibb responded to questions with regards to clarification as to the type of facility; the problems that staff is hoping to solve with such a facility; and, what the gains to the community would be.

Discussion ensued with regards to adding value to the agriculture industry and the importance of supporting local farmers with their markets and events.

C) Durham Food Policy Council – Durham Food System Report Card

M. Scott advised that the project is in the first phase which is to create a template for a Food System Report Card. He advised that he will be reaching out to staff to provide a presentation and further information to the committee.

D) Durham Farm Connection – Celebrate Agriculture Gala

M. Scott advised that the Celebrate Agriculture Gala is scheduled for October 28th at 7PM and will be held virtually. An online auction will run from October 25th to November 1st and appetizers and beverages can be pre-ordered through the website.

E) ERO Decision Notice – Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal

A copy of the Drainage Act Regulatory Proposal was provided as Attachment #6 to the Agenda and received.

6. Other Business

A) Resignation of Paul MacArthur

M. Scott announced the resignation of P. MacArthur.

7. Date of Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

Moved by G. O'Connor, Seconded by F. Puterbough,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council