

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2021

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 12, 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
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog attended the meeting at 7:52 PM
K. Kennedy, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:45 PM
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
F. Puterbough, 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**

Staff

Present: A. Brown, Agriculture Economic Development Program Coordinator,
Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic
Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
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 G. O'Connor, Seconded by G. Taylor,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee
meeting held on September 14, 2021 be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentation

A) Mary Drummond, Chair, and Mary Martin, Secretary, Durham Food Policy Council – Durham Food System Report Card

Mary Drummond, Chair, and Mary Martin, Secretary, Durham Food Policy Council, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Durham Food System Report Card.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Cross-Durham Region Food System Research
- How Did We Get Here?
- Why is this Research Important?
- Purpose of this Food Systems Research for Durham Region
- Project 1 – The Food System Environmental Scan: An Analysis of Our Food System Right Now
- Project 2 – Building a Cross-Durham Region Food System Report Card
- Using a Food Sovereignty Framework
- What is Food Sovereignty?
- Food Sovereignty and its Pillars
- Inclusion Criteria for Data Collection
- Cross-Durham Region Food System Research
- How Can You Be Involved?

M. Martin stated that the Durham Food Policy Council is currently involved in two projects: the Food System Environmental Scan and the Food System Report Card. She advised that the purpose of the research is to encourage awareness; conversation; ongoing engagement; multi-sector usage; and progress.

M. Martin advised that the first project is a Food System Environmental Scan which is an analysis of the current food system and will draw on existing data across the region along with input from food system entrepreneurs. The Food System Environmental Scan will result in four reports that will describe the strengths and weaknesses of the food system relative to the vision in the Durham Region Food Charter.

M. Martin also advised that the second project is a Cross-Durham Region Food System Report Card. She provided an overview of the two phases of the Food System Report Card project and advised that the full Report Card will be launched in the spring of 2022. She advised that the project uses a food sovereignty framework with the following pillars: food is sacred; food for people; values food providers; works with nature; localizes food systems and puts control locally; and builds knowledge and skill. She advised that the consultation and survey will be posted on their website and requested that feedback from the Committee be provided to assist with the research.

M. Martin responded to questions with regards to the indicators looked at; how sustainability will be defined and whether it will be from the community or an agriculture perspective; and the follow up work to be done once the projects are completed.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

A. Brown provided the following update:

- With regards to the Food Hub Project, staff has received a 2nd draft from the consultant and the next step is to obtain feedback from the project steering team.
- With regards to the Agriculture Career Video Series, staff has received final drafts of each career feature from the videographer and is working on creating a section on the regional website that will focus on agriculture workforce development, which will showcase the videos as well as accompanying resources.
- Staff is working with the Regional Chair's office to create messaging around normal farm practices. The goal is to raise awareness about various agriculture practices such as farm equipment on the roads, manure spreading/spraying, etc.
- Ontario Agriculture Week was October 4 to 10, 2021 and staff shared promotional material around agriculture in Durham. There was also a video address done by the Regional Chair as well as a promotional banner on the regional website.
- The Rural Economic Development (RED) grant application has been paused. Staff felt that more work needed to be done between the Region and the municipal partners to submit a solid project plan and the application will be revisited in the next couple weeks

- The Agriculture Strategy will focus more on an action-oriented plan. Staff will wait until the harvesting period is done and will then reach out to Committee members for feedback.

B) DAAC Farm Tour

Z. Cohoon advised that the 2021 Farm Tour was well received. He also advised that the Committee has received a letter of success from the Planning and Economic Development Department.

M. Scott advised that the Tour was viewed by 126 people. He advised that the video is on the Region's website and he will provide further statistics to the Committee in about a week. He also advised that the survey results and feedback have been positive and stated that people especially liked the question and answer portion of the tour.

C) Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance – Event Barn Position Paper

M. Scott advised that the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance has created a draft policy report on event barns. They are looking for comments by mid-January 2022. It was suggested that they provide a presentation at the next Committee meeting.

6. Information Items

A) Report #2021-INFO-97 – Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Employment Strategy Technical Report

A copy of Information Report #2021-INFO-97 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Report #2021-INFO-97 – Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Employment Strategy Technical Report, was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

B) Report #2021-INFO-100 – Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Community Area Urban Land Needs Technical Report

A copy of Information Report #2021-INFO-100 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Growth Management Study – Release of Community Area Urban Land Needs Technical Report, was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

C) Report #2021-EDT-6 – Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project: Annual Implementation Update

A copy of Report #2021-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Local Food Business Retention and Expansion Project: Annual Implementation Update, was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

D) 2021 Municipal Agriculture Economic Development & Planning Forum – Regional Municipality of York and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

M. Scott advised that the 13th Annual Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum is scheduled for November 3 and 4, 2021 and will be held online. Any members interested in attending were encouraged to advise him.

6. Other Business

A) Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Bridgebrook Corp. to redesignate lands from Special Study Area #6 to Living Areas to facilitate the development of a 588-unit plan of subdivision, in the Township of Uxbridge, File: OPA 2021-005 (2021-P-20)

D. Risebough inquired and requested that the Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Bridgebrook Corp. be brought to the Committee for comment.

B) 2022 DAAC Farm Tour

Z. Cohoon requested that Committee members start thinking of ideas for the 2022 Farm Tour and be prepared to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

C) Property at Raglan Road and Harmony Road North

H. Schillings expressed concerns with a property at Raglan Road and Harmony Road North that is being used for the dumping of yard waste. It was requested that M. Scott look into and provide any information on this property.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by D. Risebough,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to
Council