

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2022

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
T. Barrie, Clarington, left the meeting at 8:56 PM
N. Guthrie, Member at Large
G. Highet, Regional Councillor
B. Howsam, Member at Large
K. Kemp, Scugog
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
G. Taylor, Pickering
B. Winter, Ajax
***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: F. Puterbough, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: A. Bathe, Senior Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
A. Brown, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy & Special Studies, Department of Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Jibb, Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Department of Planning and Economic Development
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
K. Smith, 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.L. O'Connor, Seconded by B. Winter,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, Regional Municipality of Durham Planning and
Economic Development – Envision Durham Draft Natural Heritage System

Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, Regional Municipality of Durham Planning and
Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Envision
Durham Draft Natural Heritage System.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Overview
- Current Approach
- Provincial Policy Requirements
- Why Are Natural Heritage Systems Important?
- Approach to Identify the Draft Regional Natural Heritage System
- Enhancement Opportunity Areas
- Implementation
- Feedback

A. Bathe advised that mapping within the current Regional Official Plan shows the
general location of individual natural heritage features and represents a features-
based approach.

A. Bathe advised that Provincial policy has moved from a features-based
approach to a systems-based approach. She also advised that Provincial policy
now requires that all municipalities within eco regions 6E and 7C identify a
Natural Heritage System (NHS) and indicated that Durham Region falls within this
area.

A. Bathe stated that natural heritage features are composed of core natural
features and the land and water that connects those features in a system. She
also stated that working landscapes are a key component of a NHS and it is
recognized that farms play an important role in the natural environment as they
are the lands that connect important core features together.

A. Bathe explained the importance of identifying a NHS and that protecting and
connecting core features in a system contributes to a healthy, functioning and

resilient ecosystem. She noted that a key consideration in a NHS is the role that the natural environment plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

A. Bathe advised that in order to identify a draft NHS for Durham Region, existing NHS datasets were pulled from the current Regional Official Plan and area municipal Officials Plans with the addition of Growth Plan NHS Areas and minor refinements to account for updated features mapping and completed watershed plans. She reviewed the Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Core and Natural Linkage Areas; Greenbelt NHS; Growth Plan NHS Areas; and Area Municipal NHS datasets and updated features and completed watershed plans and discussed how they contributed to the draft Regional NHS.

A. Bathe stated that a new concept being proposed for the Regional Official Plan that is related to, but not part of, the Regional NHS are enhancement opportunity areas. She stated that Provincial policy directs that the diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area should not only be maintained but also restored and where possible improved. She stated this can be done by identifying areas where restoration and stewardship and other efforts, if undertaken, would support the health of the Regional NHS and help to build resilience in the face of climate change.

A. Bathe stated that the proposed policy directions in relation to the NHS were released in the Spring of 2021 through Report #2021-P-7: Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions Report and provided an overview of the Regional NHS overlay. She also stated that there will be policy exceptions reflected within the NHS with regards to buildings and structures that are for agricultural, agricultural related, and on-farm diversified uses.

A. Bathe responded to questions from the Committee.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – S. Jibb

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The previously consulted Agriculture Strategy, now the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan, is being presented to the Planning & Economic Development Committee on June 7, 2022.
- Local Food Week is taking place the week of June 6th and Durham Region is doing promotions, education and awareness on how to access local food in Durham Region.
- The next step for the Ag Career Videos project is encouraging more secondary schools to adopt the specialist high skilled major programming with a specific focus on AgriTech and Precision Agriculture. Ontario Soil and Crops have provided funds to assist with developing the program.

B) 2022 DAAC Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report – D. Risebrough

D. Risebrough provided the following update:

- There was an onsite meeting with Tim and Sharon Sargent of Sargent's Family Dairy to review the plan and were provided with a tour of the on-farm development facility.
- The Farm Tour will take place in a similar format to previous in-person tours which will begin with lunch, and instead of a keynote speaker, the Ag Career videos will be featured during lunch. There will then be a tour of the milk and cheese production facility across the road at the Jersey Dairy operation, and an agriculture promotion video from Bruce Sargent will be played to help promote agriculture and agriculture products.
- The confirmed date of the Farm Tour is Thursday, September 15, 2022.

Discussed ensued with regards to equipment required to move people from the Sargent Family Dairy Farm to the Jersey Dairy operation across the street during the Farm Tour.

C) ROPA 2022-002 – Concession 4, Township of Uxbridge – McDermott & Associates Limited

M. Scott advised that there is an application to amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by McDermott & Associates Limited for Concession 4 in the Township of Uxbridge.

Discussion ensued with regards to the details surrounding the subject site.

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 McDermott & Associates Limited, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus to a farming operation as a result of the future consideration of non-abutting farm parcels, File: ROPA 2022-022.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

A) Report #2022-P-11: Envision Durham – Growth Management Study Land Need Assessment – Staff Recommendation on Land Need Scenarios (Attachment 2)

A copy of Report #2022-P-11 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development – Envision Durham – Growth Management Study Land Need Assessment – Staff Recommendation on Land Need Scenarios was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that Planning and Economic Development staff recommended Scenario 4, and the Planning and Economic Development Committee supported modified Scenario 2A which will be presented to Regional Council on May 25, 2022.

Discussion ensued with regards to the scenarios referenced in Report #2022-P-11 and the modified scenario 2A supported by the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by D. Risebrough,

That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee re-iterates their support of Community Land Needs Scenario 5 to protect the viability of the agri-food industry in Durham Region;

And further, that the preservation of agricultural land is vital to ensure Durham Region residents have access to a sustainable and stable supply of local food, now and into the future as Durham's population grows; and

That access to growing food supports an entire food value chain and multiple industries related to food production that are imperative to Durham's overall economic health.

CARRIED

B) 2022 Business Count

M. Scott advised that the 2022 Business Count was going to return to in-person however due to the Avian flu, the agriculture business counts will be conducted online and by phone. Information on how to proceed with that will be provided by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture or in the Economic Development Newsletter.

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, June 14, 2022 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Winter, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory
Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk