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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 16, 2022

A meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: A. Abu-Rayash, Member at Large
G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair
S. Clearwater, Whitby
O. Chaudhry, Pickering
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, First Vice-Chair
B. Foxton, Uxbridge
G. Layton, Oshawa, Second Vice-Chair
K. Murray, Member at Large
M. Nasir, Ajax
D. Nguyen, Youth Member
A. Panday, Post-Secondary Member
B. Shipp, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:10 PM
***members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: K. Lui, Member at Large
R. Dickinson, Brock
S. Panchal, Youth Member
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby

Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Luqman, Senior Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department
I. McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Office of the CAO
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Approval of Agenda

J. Cuthbertson requested that the following be added to the agenda as a new item E) under 6. Items for Discussion: E) Low or No Mow Ground Cover Options for Public Property.

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the agenda for the June 16, 2022 DEAC meeting, as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the minutes of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee
meeting held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Climate Emergency Response Plan, Jade Schofield (Town of Whitby) and Eleri Davies (Sustainable Solutions Group)

Jade Schofield, Town of Whitby, and Eleri Davies, Sustainable Solutions Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Whitby Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Today's Objective and Agenda
- Engagement Questions
- About Sustainable Solutions Group (SSG)
- Whitby's Climate Emergency Response
 - Whitby Climate Action Timeline
 - Climate Change Master Plan
- Phase 1: Climate Adaption Plan
 - An Adapted Whitby
 - How We Engaged
- Phase 2: Climate Mitigation Plan
 - The Process: Mitigation Plan
 - Project Outputs: Mitigation
- Merging the Technical and Engagement Processes
 - CityInSight Model Overview
 - How We Engage
- We Want Your Feedback

J. Schofield advised that the presentation would be an update on how the Town of Whitby, as a community, plans on responding to the changing climate, and the development of a climate emergency response plan.

E. Davies provided a brief overview of Whitby's Climate Action Timeline, Climate Adaptation Plan, and Climate Mitigation Plan. She also provided an overview of the spatial, temporal and financial analysis that was done to develop the Implementation Guide and identification of the five key adaptation measures.

E. Davies advised they are currently in Phase 2 of the Climate Mitigation Plan and discussed the project outputs from the Mitigation Plan. She stated that a technical and engagement process are merged when developing a climate plan by using a series of guiding principles which will align with Federal, Provincial, and international policies. She provided an overview of the CityInSight spatial and temporal model and discussed the various input and output scenarios and models used to develop climate plans.

Members of the committee were requested to provide feedback on the following engagement questions:

1. The project will be successful if:
2. What are some opportunities to reduce GHG emissions in the Town of Whitby?
3. What are some challenges to reduce GHG emissions in the Town of Whitby?
4. What questions do you have for us about the project?

E. Davies advised that the questions will be available on menti.com for members to provide their comments or feedback.

Discussion ensued with regards to including a component of preserving natural features; changing the wording of Whitby's climate emergency response plan; tree planting programs; community greenhouse gas inventory being taken into account for new buildings and new transportation; and including soil standards, wetlands, tall grass prairies, and connectivity of landscapes in the adaptation plan.

B) Durham Greener Homes Program, Ian McVey (Durham Sustainability Office) and Brent Kopperson (Windfall Ecology Centre)

Ian McVey, Durham Sustainability Office, and Brent Kopperson, Executive Director, Windfall Ecology Centre, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Durham Greener Homes Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Introduction
- Agenda
- Program Overview
- Description
- Launch event
- Digital media
- Webpage views
- Customer feedback

B. Kopperson advised that the Durham Greener Homes program began in December 2021 and launched in April 2022 with combined efforts between Durham Region, Windfall Ecology Centre, and community partners such as local utilities, municipalities within Durham Region, participating Credit Unions, and other organizations.

B. Kopperson advised Durham Greener Homes provides coaching to assist homeowners with obtaining incentives from the Federal government, from utilities in Durham Region, and from Durham Green Homes program. He also advised that there are loans being offered through two participating Credit Unions.

B. Kopperson advised that the launch has gone well and paid advertisements are being run in Durham Region newspapers advising of potential rebates available to Durham Region residents.

I. McVey responded to questions regarding the audience for the Durham Greener Homes program; rebates for metal roofs; whether metal roofs are ecofriendly; the Greener Homes Program being available for new builds; incentives for roofing; rebates available from the Federal government; and whether the program applies to organizations or only residential homes.

6. Items for Discussion

A) Introduction of New Ajax Member Representative

A. Luqman introduced Mauz Nasir and advised that he is a resident of Ajax, and brings extensive knowledge, education and experience focusing on environmental partnerships and sustainability. M. Nasir introduced himself to the Committee.

B) Update on Nomination for 2022 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Award

The Update on Nomination for 2022 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Award was provided as a link.

A. Luqman advised that G. Carpentier was nominated for the George R. Richardson Lifetime Achievement Award. A. Luqman provided a brief overview of G. Carpentier's extensive work in the watershed area in both his personal and professional life.

G. Carpentier thanked committee members for nominating him for the award.

C) Alternative Land Needs Scenarios – Council follow-up

A copy of the Regional Council Minutes dated May 25, 2022 was provided as a link.

A. Luqman provided a brief summary of the events leading up to the May 25, 2022 Regional Council meeting in terms of the Alternative Land Needs Scenarios. She stated that the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development

provided Council members with a memorandum strongly encouraging them to reconsider Scenario 2A as it did not align with staff recommendations in adopting Scenario 4. A. Luqman advised that Council ultimately adopted Scenario 2A.

D) Spring Pollinator Seed Distribution Project Update Report (#2022-INFO-45)

A copy of Information Report #2022-INFO-45 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Spring Pollinator Seed Distribution Project Update was provided as a link.

A. Luqman advised that the project is now complete and provided a brief overview of the final steps that took place after the May 19, 2022 DEAC meeting.

E) Low or No Mow Ground Cover Options for Public Property

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That the Committee dispense with notice in order to introduce a new motion with respect to low or no mow ground cover options.

CARRIED ON A 2/3rds VOTE

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by S. Clearwater,
That staff at the Region be requested to undertake a study to explore various implementations of low or no mow ground cover options as per the following:

- Community aesthetics, safety and economic factors as well as net carbon reduction;
- Site preparation options, ideally using existing machinery and resources and/or new cost-effective options which are safe, efficient and economical for the public and Region. This could include:
 - Seeders, sod-cutters, crimpers and other machinery, smother crops, overseeding, mulching, solarization and responsible chemical options;
- Maintenance requirements including timing of mowing (where required) in order to protect pollinators, their eggs, or hibernating/pupating pollinators and mowing frequency throughout the year;
- Benchmarking and utilization of existing best practices in other comparable regions or municipalities; and
- Sufficient number of test plots to study different applications and preparation techniques.

CARRIED

7. Items for Input

A) Draft Regional Agricultural System Map (Report #2022-P-16) and Interactive Map Viewer

A copy of Report #2022-P-16 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Draft Regional Agricultural System Map and Interactive Map Viewer were provided as a link.

A. Luqman advised that the review is to refine and implement the Provincial Agricultural System for Durham Region through Envision Durham and that the mapping is intended to protect farmland, prevent fragmentation and maintain the viability of agriculture and growth of the Agri-Food sectors in Durham.

A. Luqman advised that any feedback from members of the committee is due by September 9, 2022 via the Interactive Map.

8. For Information

- A) Report #2022-P-15: Decision Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan by Werrcroft Farms Ltd. to permit a severance of a surplus farm dwelling in Clarington

A copy of Report #2022-P-15 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Decision Meeting Report – Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan by Werrcroft Farms Ltd. To permit a severance of a surplus farm dwelling in Clarington was provided as a link.

- B) Notice of Study Completion – Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Zone 4 Water Storage and Pumping Facilities to Service North Whitby and North Oshawa

A copy of the Notice of Study Completion regarding Municipal Class Environmental Assessment for Zone 4 Water Storage and Pumping Facilities to Service North Whitby and North Oshawa was provided as a link.

- C) Information Report #2022-INFO-42: Spring 2022 Waste Collection Delays Update

A copy of Information Report #2022-INFO-42 of the Acting Commissioner of Works regarding Waste Collection Delays Update was provided as a link.

- D) Information Report #2022-INFO-44: Regional Review of Conservation Authority Inventories of Programs and Services

A copy of Information Report #2022-INFO-44 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Regional Review of Conservation Authority Inventories of Programs and Services was provided as a link.

- E) Durham Regional Roundtable on Climate Change – Minutes of April 22th Meeting

A copy of the minutes from the Durham Regional Roundtable on Climate Change meeting on April 22, 2022 was provided as a link.

- F) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee – Minutes of May 10th Meeting

A copy of the minutes from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting on May 10, 2022 was provided as a link.

Moved by J. Cuthbertson, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That Information Items 8. A) to F) inclusive, be received for information.
CARRIED

9. Other Business

A) Response re: Planning Applications

G. Carpentier advised that there was a response received from A. Bathe, Senior Planner, with respect to planning applications. A copy of the response will be provided to committee members following the meeting.

B) Durham Freight and Goods Movement Forum

A. Luqman advised that registration for the Durham Freight and Goods Movement Forum is open and will take place on June 22 and 23, 2022 from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM and that a link will be provided to committee members following the meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 starting at 7:30 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by O. Chaudhry,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

G. Carpentier, Chair
Durham Environmental Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk