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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**June 13, 2023**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, 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, Member at Large, Chair  
R. Death, Whitby  
N. Guthrie, Ajax  
B. Hulshof, Uxbridge  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair  
H. Schillings, Member at Large  
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair  
M. Somerville, Member at Large  
D. Stevenson, Oshawa  
N. Swain, Scugog  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
T. Watpool, Brock  
W. Wotten\*, Regional Councillor

**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: T. Barrie, Clarington

#### **Staff**

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning & Special Studies  
S. Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, 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

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by T. Watpool,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Discussion Items**

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

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A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Precision Agriculture Field Day was hosted by the Barrie Family on May 30 and was offered to high school students to advise of career opportunities in agriculture and general exposure on how precision agriculture technology is used to produce food. There has been discussion to make this an annual event.
- Local Food Week took place the week of June 5<sup>th</sup> which included campaigns for Durham Farms and Local Food and identified the Village of Newcastle as the apple capital of Canada.

S. Jibb provided the following update:

- It was the consensus of staff to not continue to work on the On-Farm Diversified Toolkit at this time with the Provincial Policy changes and instead will shift their focus to educating staff on the Provincial guidelines for On-Farm Diversified Uses.

**B) Avian Influenza and Backyard Chickens**

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S. Jibb provided the following update:

- The Township of Brock is looking into introducing backyard chickens and changing their by-law.
- The City of Pickering Council adopted the staff recommendation to not proceed with a backyard chicken pilot project.
- Hubert Schilling delegated to the City of Pickering on Monday, June 5, 2023 to speak on this topic.

C) Agriculture 101 Training

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A. De Vos provided the following update:

- Zac Cohoon presented to Regional Council regarding the Agriculture 101 Training. There was discussion to provide the training to local municipalities.

Discussion ensued with regards to providing the Agriculture 101 Training in the late fall/winter; making the training specific to each lower tier municipality; how to get the training onto the lower tier agendas; the length of the presentation to Regional Council and shortening the version to the lower tiers; ensuring appropriate staff are in attendance for the training; who will be providing the training to the lower tier municipalities; and the priority of topics to be included in the training. Scugog Council will be the first local tier presentation.

D) 2023 Farm Tour Sub-Committee Report

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D. Risebrough advised the Farm Tour will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2023 and will be hosted by Carncroft Farm and Swain Beef Farm with registration beginning at 11:00 AM and lunch at 12:00 PM; the guest speaker is the Director of Meat & Poultry Ontario; and the presentation of the two farms will take place at 1:00 PM. He further advised that assistance is needed from Committee members for the set up and take down of equipment used for the event at the locations.

E) Durham Regional Official Plan Update

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M. Scott advised that the new Durham Regional Official Plan was adopted by Regional Council on May 17, 2023 and has been sent to the Province for approval. He further advised he would provide an update when they hear back from the Province with any changes.

F) Regional Development Charge By-law

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S. Jibb advised she had a discussion with the Regional Development Charge (DC) working group and discussed the comments raised at the May 9<sup>th</sup> Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting in terms of the On-Farm Diversified Uses and Building definition in the DC By-law, and that it was the consensus that more time was needed to look into the definitions. She further advised that there will be a presentation on this topic at the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Discussion ensued with regards to whether comments received from the committee can be brought up through an amendment to the by-law or if it has to be done during the next by-law study; and working with the Planning Division to assist with defining On-Farm Diversified Uses appropriately.

G) Region of Durham Annual Business Count

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M. Scott advised the Region of Durham Annual Business Count is open at [durham.ca/businesscount](http://durham.ca/businesscount) and that they will not be conducting it in person this year due to the Avian Influenza.

H) Consultation on Proposed Changes to Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations (Identification and Traceability)

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M. Scott advised that any comments from the Committee on the regulations are due by June 16, 2023. He further advised that fair boards will have to take control over tracking the animals that are coming to and leaving each fair and that it was previously done by the exhibitor.

Moved by T. Watpool, Seconded by B. Smith,  
That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee supports the Agriculture Societies in maintaining the exhibitors as the source of traceability for animals attending fairs.

CARRIED

**5. Information Items**

A) DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference 2023

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Report #2023-P-16 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – DAAC Workplan and Terms of Reference 2023 was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that Report #2023-P-16 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was approved by the Planning and Economic Development Committee on June 8, 2023 and will be presented to Regional Council on June 28, 2023.

B) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolutions

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Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolutions included in the June 6, 2023 Planning and Economic Development Committee agenda was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

C) Report #2023-P-15 – Envision Durham – Recommendations on the New Regional Official Plan

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Report #2023-P-15 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Envision Durham – Recommendation on the New Regional Official Plan was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that Report #2023-P-15 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was approved by Regional Council at the Special Regional Council meeting held on May 17, 2023.

D) Notice of Adoption – Regional Official Plan

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Notice of Adoption of the Regional Official Plan dated May 30, 2023 was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

E) Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – the Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813

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Report #2023-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Durham Region's Response to Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 – the Helping Homeowners, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023, the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, and Related ERO Postings #019-6821, #019-6822, #019-6813 was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that Report #2023-P-19 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was approved by the Planning and Economic Development Committee on June 8, 2023 and will be presented to Regional Council on June 28, 2023.

F) Joint Statement from Ontario's Farm Leaders on Bill 97 and Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

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Joint Statement from Ontario's Farm Leaders on Bill 97 and Proposed Provincial Planning Statement was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

G) CBC News Article – Farmers Pressure Doug Ford Government to Reverse Course on Housing Plan

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CBC News Article entitled Farmers Pressure Doug Ford Government to Reverse Course on Housing Plan was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

Z. Cohoon advised that Mike Crawley attended at his farm to prepare the news article. He further advised that M. Crawley was invited to the Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee Farm Tour.

H) Development of Lands Removed from the Greenbelt

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Report #2023-COW-23 of the Chief Administrative Officer – Development of Lands Removed from the Greenbelt was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

M. Scott advised that Report #2023-COW-23 of the Chief Administrative Officer will be presented to the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 2023 and to Regional Council on June 28, 2023.

I) Brock Backyard Chickens Proposal

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Township of Brock's Backyard Chickens Proposal survey was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

J) Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week

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Report #2023-EDT-8 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

S. Jibb advised that Report #2023-EDT-8 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was approved by the Planning and Economic Development Committee on June 8, 2023. She further advised that Rob Alexander, President, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association delegated to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on June 8, 2023 and it was well received.

K) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee Minutes – April 20, 2023

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Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee minutes dated April 20, 2023 was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

**6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

**8. Adjournment**

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Z.Cohoon, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk