



Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Members Present: Eric Bowman John Cartwright Don Rickard
Tom Barrie Henry Zekveld Brenda Metcalf
Richard Rekker Ryan Cullen Jordan McKay
Jennifer Knox Councillor Zwart

Regrets: Ben Eastman

Staff: Amy Burke and Faye Langmaid, Planning & Development Services

Guests: Lisa Backus and Carlos Salazar, Planning & Development Services
Rob Maciver, Municipal Solicitor

Observers: Ted Watson; Allison Brown and Stacey Jibb, Region of Durham –
Planning & Economic Development; Carolyn Puterbough, Ontario
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Due to COVID 19 restrictions and to ensure social distancing, participation in the meeting was electronic (using Microsoft Teams) and by conference call.

Eric welcomed all to the meeting, with introductions of Committee members.

Declarations of Interest

Rob Maciver, Municipal Solicitor, was present to update the Committee on the request made at the March 11 meeting to seek advice from the Integrity Commissioner about declarations of interest as it relates to the matter of Clarington Official Plan - Special Study Area 2. In correspondence received from the Integrity Commissioner on March 31, it was stated that it was the view of the Integrity Commissioner that the Committee is not a "local board" for the purposes of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act or the Municipal Act and therefore is not subject to the Council Code of Conduct.

It was requested that Staff consider removing the Declarations of Interest item from future Committee agendas. Staff agreed to discuss this further with the Municipal Clerk and Solicitor.

Adoption of Agenda

021-09 Moved by John Cartwright, seconded by Richard Rekker

That the Agenda for April 8, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

021-010 Moved by Richard Rekker, seconded by Tom Barrie

That the minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting be approved.

Carried

Presentation

Lisa Backus, Principal Planner and Carlos Salazar, Manager of Community Planning, Planning & Development Services Department – Clarington Official Plan, Special Study Area 2: Lisa Backus provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Draft Official Plan Amendment COPA 2021-0001. She provided background on the initiation of the Draft Official Plan Amendment (Draft OPA) in response to Council Resolution #C-058-21 and provided details on the Statutory Public Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 26 at 7:00 pm. Ms. Backus reviewed the Draft Official Plan policies under consideration for deletion, including mapping showing the lands that are the subject of the Draft OPA. Information on the Draft OPA, including details about the April 26 Statutory Public Meeting, are posted on the Municipality's website at www.Clarington.net/SpecialStudyArea2.

Following the presentation, Lisa Backus and Carlos Salazar responded to questions from the Committee members, and the Committee continued their previous discussion regarding the consideration of the deletion of Special Study Area 2 from the Official Plan. In responding to questions, Staff clarified that the Province has not yet undertaken the science-based study of the agricultural capability of the subject lands requested by Council in May 2015. Staff also explained that approval of the Draft OPA would not change the zoning or the land use designations applicable to the subject lands, and land use mapping was reviewed. Comments raised by Committee members included a suggestion that the lands within Special Study Area 2 designated Prime Agricultural (Bowmanville to Newcastle) may warrant greater protection than lands within Special Study Area 2 designated Rural Area (Courtice to Bowmanville). Comments were also raised about the importance of protecting valuable agricultural lands from development and how a science-based study is a means of determining value for farming (e.g. soil, heat units).

Delegations

None.

Business Arising from Minutes

Regulation of On-Farm Special Events: On March 22, Council considered report [LGS-012-21](#) regarding Regulation of On-Farm Special Events and directed staff to proceed with a licensing regime. The working group that stemmed from the March 2020 AACC meeting met again on March 29 to discuss a draft licensing by-law. Their comments, plus comments from others submitted to Legislative Services, and any additional comments from the AACC or individual members will inform the presentation

of a draft Licencing By-law to the General Government Committee of Council on April 19, 2021. Rob Maciver, Municipal Solicitor, was present to answer questions.

Consideration of Deletion of Special Study Area 2 from the Official Plan:
Considered earlier in the meeting after the presentation by Lisa Backus.

Correspondence, Council Items and Referrals

None.

Liaison Reports

Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee: None. The next DAAC meeting is April 13, 2021.

Durham Region Federation of Agriculture: None.

Durham Farm Connections: Brenda Metcalf informed the Committee that the kick off of the Facebook Live virtual farm tours has had great success (www.facebook.com/DurhamFarmConnections). Virtual farm tours are scheduled to continue through to November 2021. In lieu of the annual Grade 3 Program, educational videos that teachers can integrate into their classroom programs are also being developed.

Clarington Board of Trade: None

New Business

None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021 @ 7:30 pm (Virtual Meeting)

Guest: Region of Durham, Planning & Economic Development regarding Envision Durham – Proposed Policy Directions