



Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Members Present: Eric Bowman Jordan McKay John Cartwright
Tom Barrie Ben Eastman Councillor Zwart

Regrets: Don Rickard, Henry Zekveld, Brenda Metcalf, Jennifer Knox, Ryan Cullen, Mitch Morawetz

Staff: Amy Burke, Faye Langmaid, Jane Wang - Planning & Development Services

Guests: Kelly McAllister, Green Bees

Observers: None

Participation in the meeting was in person at the Municipal Administrative Centre.

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

Declarations of Interest

None

Adoption of Agenda

In the absence of quorum, the Committee agreed to continue the meeting in accordance with the agenda by consensus, with no motions to be considered.

Approval of Minutes

In the absence of quorum, approval of minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting was deferred to July 14, 2022.

Presentation

Beekeeping and the Winter Die-off: Kelly McAllister of Green Bees, provided an overview of her local, hobby beekeeping operations and shared insight on how both commercial and hobby beekeepers have been impacted by the significant bee die-off experienced in winter 2021/2022. Green Bees partners with local farmers to set up hive locations, owned and fully managed by Green Bees.

Kelly noted that normal winter die-off rates experienced by beekeepers are approximately 20% - 25%, on average. Across North America, it is reported that the

winter 2021/2022 season experienced die-off rates of 90% - 95%. Kelly touched upon the typical causes of winter die off, including starvation and mites, as well as the theories for the recent mass die-off. The leading theories being assessed by OMAFRA and others include mites, a specific type of fungicide, and a bacteria commonly used as a biological control agent including for the control of gypsy moths. Kelly emphasized that research is on-going, and a cause has not yet been confirmed.

The Committee discussed the potential negative effect on the agricultural sector and in particular operations that rely on pollination services (e.g. fruit and vegetable crop), as well as the logistics, requirements and time needed to rebuild bee colonies. Kelly noted that the full impact of the winter 2021/2022 die-off is still being assessed, but will have an effect on agriculture and food production.

Eric thanked Kelly for her presentation, on behalf of the Committee.

Delegations

None

Business Arising from Minutes

Rural Roadside Ditch Maintenance Program: Staff updated the Committee that a meeting has been coordinated with Public Works to discuss the Committee questions that arose at the May 12, 2022 meeting. These included how ditch maintenance locations are prioritized, how much budget is allocated to ditch maintenance, and would there be any benefit to the AACC compiling a list of ditches in the Municipality that they see as being particularly problematic from an agricultural perspective? An update on the outcomes of the meeting will be provided at the July 14, 2022 meeting.

Envision Durham Alternative Land Needs Scenarios – Notice of Regional Council Direction: In advance of the meeting, staff circulated the [notice](#), dated received from the Region of Durham, dated May 30, 2022, of Regional Council's decision on this matter. Envision Durham will now proceed to the next phase of Envision Durham's Growth Management Study to identify, assess, and consult on candidate locations for settlement area boundary expansion.

The Committee questioned the locations where settlement area boundary expansions could potentially occur. Staff explained that the Region will examine "whitebelt" lands. However, without the accompanying population and employment forecasts, the implications of the approved scenario for Clarington are not possible to discern at this time. Planning and Development Staff will report back to the Committee on potential local impacts at a future date, once the allocations and proposed municipal boundary expansions have been released by the Region.

Durham Agri-Food Action Plan: On June 7, 2022, the Region of Durham's Planning and Economic Development Committee recommended endorsement of the *Draft Growing Agri-Food Durham* plan (June 2022), which sets out a five-year plan to grow and support Durham's agri-food businesses and the agri-food industry. The AACC participated in consultation on the initiative. Staff shared the appreciation received from

Invest Durham for the Committee's contributions. The recommended endorsement will be considered by Regional Council on June 29, 2022.

Correspondence, Council Items and Referrals

In advance of the meeting, the following notices to the Municipality from the Region of Durham were circulated to the Committee for information:

- Region of Durham – Taunton Rd. Reconstruction, Townline Rd./Bowmanville Ave, [Notice of Study Completion](#)
- Region of Durham – Taunton Rd. Road Rehabilitation, RR42/RR17 (Main St.), [Public Notice](#)
- Region of Durham – Enfield Rd. Road Rehabilitation Enfield Rd./Conc. Rd. 7, [Public Notice](#)

Liaison Reports

Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee: No updates. The next DAAC meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2022.

Durham Region Federation of Agriculture: No updates.

Durham Farm Connections: DFC has an opportunity for a Digital Marking and Communications Assistant Summer Student. Contact drfagric@gmail.com for details.

Clarington Board of Trade: Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday June 16 at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park. Keynote speaker is Lorraine Sunstrum-Mann, CEO of Grandview Kids, who will speak about the importance of collaboration with government, community stakeholders and local businesses. Details to register are available at <https://www.cbot.ca/events/2022-annual-general-meeting-business-awards/>.

On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDUs) Sub-Committee: A consolidation of comments received on March 3, 2022 relating to the comparison of secondary uses and regulations permitted by the County of Brant, City of Ottawa and Clarington's draft zoning by-law (November 2021) has been circulated to the Sub-Committee. Additional comments and questions are welcomed. Staff are now working on the development of public resources to assist farmers considering the establishment of an OFDU to understand Municipal land use planning and building requirements. Sub-Committee meeting #3 will be coordinated by Staff later this summer to review and solicit feedback on draft resources.

New Business

2019 – 2022 Committee Member Term: Staff highlighted key dates for the completion of the current term of Council and the Municipality's Advisory Committees of Council, along with the schedule for applications to sit on Advisory Committees for the 2023 – 2026 term. Six of the AACC member appointments by Council will conclude at the end of 2022.

Durham Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Workshop: Staff advised the Committee of their attendance at this event, hosted by the Region of Durham on June 9, 2022. Municipal Planning, Building, By-law, and Economic Development staff were brought together for the purposes of knowledge sharing, networking and identifying opportunities for collaboration with a focus on supporting agriculture. Clarington staff were requested to present at the workshop on the AACC, the value they provide to the Municipality, and how they contribute to municipal decision making, with a focus on the role of sub-committees. Staff shared with the Committee the appreciation expressed by OMAFRA and Region staff for the support the AACC has provided on local agricultural matters.

Clarington Economic Development Strategy: Staff updated the Committee that a draft Economic Development Strategy for the Municipality is now complete. At the June 6, 2022 General Government Committee meeting, consideration of Report [CAO-005-22](#) and presenting the draft Strategy and recommending its endorsement was deferred to the June 20, 2022 Council meeting. Staff will report back on the Strategy pending Council's decision.

Solina Truck Prohibition: A concern was raised respecting resolution #C-083-22 approved by Council on April 4, 2022, "that the NO HEAVY TRUCKS prohibition currently in effect along Concession Road 6 and Concession Road 7 be permanent." Committee members requested clarity on the application of the prohibition for trucks carrying out agricultural activities, and how Durham Region Police Services will make this determination upon stopping a vehicle. Of key concern is that vehicles, such as fuel trucks or other types of hauling vehicles that look no different than a regular hauling truck will be ticketed, leaving the burden (both financial and time) on farmers to follow the process to refute the ticket and seek exemption for normal farm practices. Staff agreed to coordinate a meeting with Public Works staff. Pending the discussion, the Committee will consider delegating to Council and a corresponding request for reconsideration of the permanent truck ban.

John Cartwright moved to adjourn.

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 14, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

Municipal Administrative Centre, 40 Temperance Street, Bowmanville, Room 1C