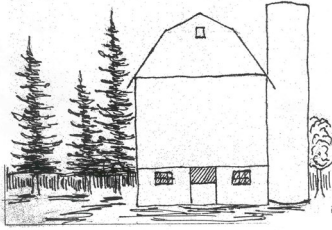


Agricultural Advisory



Committee of Clarington

Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington – 2024 Annual Update

Committee Goals

The Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington was formed to support Council's decision making on agriculture. The AACC provides an opportunity for the agricultural community to share their expertise.

From the 2023/2024 AACC Work Plan, the Committee's top two goals were:

1. To encourage and support the agricultural industry as an important part of the Municipality's economic base and as a valuable contribution to Ontario's food supply.
2. To protect and enhance the Municipality's rural character.

2024 Members

Henry Zekveld (Chair)
Tom Barrie (Vice-Chair)
Eric Bowman
John Cartwright
Ryan Cullen
Jennifer Knox
Jordan McKay

Brenda Metcalf
Craig Rickard
Richard Rekker
Mitch Morawetz*
Councillor Zwart

Staff Liaison:
Sylvia Jennings

* Durham Region
Federation of Agriculture
representative

Meetings

The Agricultural Advisory Committee of Clarington (AACC) met monthly in 2024, except for April, July and September (9 meetings total). Meetings were held in a hybrid format.

Consultation Input

In 2024, the AACC was consulted on and discussed various local and regional issues. Feedback was given formally by passing motions, or informally through discussions with presenters or delegators. The topics explored are below.

From Council:

- Backyard Chickens
- Rodenticide usage and municipal ban
- Stormwater Management Fees

From Municipal Staff:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan
- Migrant Worker Housing issues complying with Fire Code Orders

From related organizations:

- Growing Agri-Food Durham Action Plan
- Housing Needs for the Agricultural Sector in the Greenbelt

From Committee Members:

- Conflicts between rail companies and adjacent farmers
- Clarington 2024 Rural Area Capital Works Update
- Road safety issues and conflicts between motorists and farm vehicles
- Regional Roads Capital Program

Presentations to the Committee

In addition, the AACC expanded its knowledge of agricultural and agricultural-related issues by receiving presentations on the following:

- Four Farms Market Garden Training – Michael Longarini
- Ontario Farmland Trust – Martin Straathof
- Battery Energy Storage Systems – Ontario Federation of Agriculture

Support for Agricultural Organizations

AACC members also supported various organizations throughout the year that help promote and advocate for agriculture in Clarington and the Region of Durham. Some of these organizations include:

- Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
- Durham Farm Connections
- Durham Farm Fresh
- T.H.E.E. Farmer's Parade of Lights

Planning for 2025

In 2025, the AACC will prepare a work plan for the new term. The work plan will feature topics from previous terms and incorporate emerging issues that the Committee identifies. The Committee will also be available to consult on issues brought forward by Council or Municipal staff. Some topics include migrant worker housing, roadside trees, and potentially organizing a farm tour for Council.