

**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Minutes
December 1, 2016
Ontario
7:00 pm**

Members Present: Councillor Don Hamilton Paul Reesor, Chair Kim Empringham Candice Einstoss, York Region Public Health Sonia Dhir, TRCA Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath	Staff Present: Jessica Yau, Community Engagement Assistant Lilli Duoba, Manager, Natural Heritage Patrick Wong, Natural Heritage Planner Laura Gold, Council/ Committee Coordinator
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The Agricultural Advisory Committee convened at 7:11 pm with Paul Reesor presiding as Chair.

1. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Candice Einstoss

That the Minutes of the April 7, and October 6, 2016 Agricultural Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Future Urban Area Update

Patrick Wong, Natural Heritage Planner provided an update on the Future Urban Area. An open house on the Conceptual Master Plan for the North Markham Future Urban Area was held on November 3, 2016. The public meeting was held to provide the public with an opportunity to learn about the preliminary plans for the future urban area and to provide feedback. Information boards from the open house were presented to the Committee.

A Committee Member asked if the Angus Glen Golf Course will be developed. Staff advised that the Angus Glen Golf Course is trying to keep part of its course open, but that no decision on the matter has been decided yet.

3. Agricultural Edge Planning – Brief Update Friends of the Greenbelt Workshop

Kim Empringham reported that she attended the Friends of the Greenbelt Workshop recently on agriculture edge planning. Planning for the interface can help to mitigate the impact of development on agricultural lands and prevent conflicts of land uses. A handout on the matter was circulated to the

Committee based on urban-to-agriculture interface conditions in British Columbia. The Province is currently looking at providing further guidance on agricultural edge planning through the update to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Other jurisdictions have required vegetation as a part of residential subdivision design to provide a visual, noise, and odour buffer from agricultural operations. Staff reported that agricultural stakeholders had concerns as increased vegetation also serves as a habitat for birds to forage and can affect crop yields. In particular, it was noted that this is of particular concern within the Tender Fruit areas in Niagara.

4. Development Charges Memo

A memo on the City's Development Charges was circulated with the agenda package for information purposes. Markham's development charges do not apply to farm buildings.

A Committee Member asked if farmers are required to pay building permit fees, as some municipalities provide farmers with a reduced building permit fee. Staff did not think a reduced fee was provided, but would need to investigate the inquiry to confirm.

The Committee briefly discussed the Rouge National Urban Park. It inquired if the park will follow the City's by-laws once Markham transfers its land to Parks Canada. Staff advised that the park will not be required to follow the City's by-laws, but anticipated that the by-laws will be followed in good faith. It was also noted that the City and Parks Canada are looking at agreements for the use of municipal services within the Park.

5. Agricultural Work plan and Committee Structure

The Committee reviewed the Agricultural Work Plan. The only outstanding item was to review the Flood Control Program/Storm Water Management fee in the spring. Many of the items the Committee wanted to tackle have been completed. There is also less agricultural lands and fewer farmers in Markham since the Committee was originally formed. Consequently, the Committee agreed to meet at the call of the Chair on a go forward basis rather than meet six times per year.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Kim Empringham

That the Committee provide staff with permission to modify the Agricultural Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to reflect that the Committee will meet at the call of the Chair, with a minimum of one meeting per year, rather than six times per year.

Carried

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held in late February or in early March, 2017.

8. Adjournment

The Agricultural Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:20 pm