

Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

December 5, 2013

7:00 PM

Canada Room

Members Present: Regional Councillor Gord Landon, Chair Jay Reesor, Vice Chair Guy Farintosh Ruth Brock Kim Empringham Lynne Koss Paul Reesor Richard Reesor Agency Representatives: Sonia Dhir, TRCA Jason Ezer, York Region	Staff Present: Lilli Duoba, Manager Natural Heritage Ruth Rendon, Senior Natural Heritage Planner Liz Wimmer, Senior Planner, Urban Design Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator Regrets: Councillor Don Hamilton Prabh Banga, Sustainability Coordinator Mike Bender, Rouge Park, TRCA Phil Fung, Environmental Advisory Committee Bryant Hulshaf Doug Lindeblom, York Region Maria Gatti, Transport Canada Maria Papoulias, Rouge Park , TRCA Candice Einstoss, York Region Public Health
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The Agricultural Advisory Committee convened at 7:02 p.m. with Regional Councillor Landon presiding as Chair.

1. REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2013 AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

A member questioned if there would still be opportunities to provide comments on Markham's draft new Official Plan. Staff advised that there will still be opportunities to provide feedback, as the plan has not completed its approval process. The plan is scheduled to go to Council on December 10, 2013 for its approval, if approved the plan will then be brought forward to the Region for approval.

Moved by Kim Empringham
Seconded by Guy Farintosh

That the Minutes of the November 14, 2013 Agricultural Advisory Committee were approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. SHARE THE ROADS PRESENTATION

Lilli Duoba provided a presentation entitled “Share the Roads”.

Discussion

The Committee discussed the locations in Markham that would benefit from having “share the roads” signage. These signs work well on rural roads with lots of hills or where vision is obstructed.

Moved by Guy Farintosh

Seconded by Paul Reesor

That City Engineering Staff review potential locations for share the road signage along Elgin Mills and 19th Avenue at the confluence of watercourses and other areas where landform and pavement restrictions exists.

CARRIED

Regional Councillor Gord Landon left the meeting and Paul Reesor assumed the role of Chair.

3. 2014 WORK PLAN

The Committee discussed ideas for the 2014 Work Plan. The following draft 2014 Work Plan was developed:

Topic	Staff Assistance	Purpose
Subdivision Soil Density Pilot Project	Planning	Presentation of soil preservation pilot project by Biju Karumanchery.
Tax Reduction in Farmland Tax Rate beyond the 25%	Planning	Kim Empringham to provide information for discussion.
Update on New Official Plan	Planning	Discussion on the final adopted agricultural policies in the adopted Official Plan by Lilli Duoba.
Update on York Region`s Context Solutions for Regional Roads Report	Planning	Presentation by Angela Gibson or other (York Region) on Regional Roads

Topic	Staff Assistance	Purpose
Community Gardens	Sustainability Office	Update on implementation of community gardens throughout Markham.
Agricultural Tour	Sustainability Office	Discussion on a possible 2 nd Agricultural Tour. Possible tour to visit GTA farms being managed by TRCA.
Update on Rouge National Urban Park	Planning	Presentation on Rouge National Urban Park planning process and agricultural priorities. Invitation to Parks Canada
Management of wildlife disposition on agricultural lands	Planning	Discussion on regulations available to City to manage wildlife releases on agricultural lands.
Firearm usage and the Provincial “Right to Farm” legislation	Planning	Discussion on regulations available to the City to manage firearm usage and requirements under the Right to Farm legislation.
Expansion of urban agriculture opportunities	Planning	Discussion of possible expansion of urban agriculture in existing and emerging planned communities.
Review of the Local Food Act and Local Food Fund	Sustainability Office	Presentation on Local Food Act and Local Food Fund
Prepare 2015 Work Plan	Planning/Sustainability Office	Discussion on Work Plan matters for 2015 and Holiday Celebration

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

5. 2014 MEETING DATES

The Committee reviewed the 2014 meeting schedule. Planning staff indicated they have a conflict with the March 6, 2013 meeting date. The Clerk will investigate whether the Sustainability Coordinator is able to attend the March meeting or if it needs to be rescheduled.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Agriculture Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.