



## Minutes

### Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee

September 29, 2021  
Electronic Meeting

Members: J. Bartley, M. Bhim, S. Dhir, A. Eek, K. Empringham, B. Wills

Staff: C. Banfield, T. Cline, T. Corkovic, C. Goodeve, M. Hassanali,  
A. Ko, J. Magill, N. Murchison, C. Narula, J. Wheatle

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#### **A. Call to Order**

The York Region Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. with Councillor Eek as Chair.

#### **B. Disclosures of Interest**

Sonia Dhir declared an interest in Item F.3 as she is employed by an agency which has already submitted comments related to the Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 7 application and subsequently did not participate in discussion or voting on the matter.

#### **C. Presentations**

##### **C.1 Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy - Staff Update**

The Committee received the presentation by Meena Hassanali, Rural and Agri-Food Business Development Specialist, Chhavi Narula, Planner and Tony Corkovic, Marketing and Communications Specialist regarding Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy - Staff Update.

##### **C.2 York Region 9-1-1 Emergency Response - Overview**

The Committee received the presentation by Christina Dawson, 911 Communications Centre, York Regional Police regarding York Region 9-1-1 Emergency Response - Overview.

#### **D. Deputations**

None

**E. Communications**

None

**F. Other Business**

**F.1 Input on Draft York Region Climate Change Action Plan (by September 2021)**

Members were reminded to consider the role agriculture and agri-food businesses have in fighting climate change and encouraged to submit comments to staff by end of September 2021.

**F.2 Member Roundtable Updates**

Members had the opportunity to share ongoing initiatives and updates related to the Agriculture and Agri-Food industry.

**F.3 Motion Regarding Regional Official Plan Amendment No. 7**

The Committee voted in favour of the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee has considered and discussed the information provided with the ROPA 7 application; and

WHEREAS the lands in question are identified as Prime Agricultural Area within the Provincial Agricultural System of the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan; and

WHEREAS there is insufficient justification to remove such lands from the Agricultural designation; and

WHEREAS it is the Committee's opinion that these lands remain capable of supporting sustainable small scale farming businesses and urban agriculture; and

WHEREAS there are many examples of sustainable farming providing local food within urban areas; and

WHEREAS local food is part of a Complete Community; and

WHEREAS every precaution should be taken to protect such lands for agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS removing these lands from the Agricultural designation will set a dangerous precedent for redesignation of other Agricultural lands within the Greenbelt Plan;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee recommends denial of ROPA 7.

**G. Adjournment**

The York Region Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.