

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Planning and Economic Development
September 19, 2019

Report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Regional Clerk

Appointments to Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee for 2019-2022 Term

1. Recommendation

Council appoint individuals listed in Private Attachment 1 to the York Region Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee for the 2019 to 2022 term.

2. Summary

This report recommends members for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee for the 2019-2022 term. Names of individuals recommended are provided in Private Attachment 1 as this involves personal matters about identifiable individuals.

Key Points:

- Members appointed to the advisory committee provide advice to Regional Council and staff on agriculture, agri-food and rural matters in York Region
- Members will work with Regional staff on implementing approved work plan activities to advance York Region's Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy
- Members are appointed for a term up to four years to coincide with the term of Regional Council

3. Background

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee provides advice on protection and promotion of agriculture and farming in the Region

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), formerly called the Agricultural Advisory Liaison Group, is a volunteer advisory committee created by Regional Council in 2001 as a means to support the agricultural industry and promote healthy rural communities. The Advisory Committee has been involved in activities to promote and protect agriculture and local food in York Region. The group is similar to agricultural advisory committees in the Regions of Halton, Peel and Durham.

The Terms of Reference for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee was recently updated

Regional staff initiated a review of the Terms of Reference with the Advisory Committee in August 2018. Changes to the name of the group and Terms of Reference were necessary to reflect the connection of the Committee with the Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy (the Strategy) and to align its practices with those of other advisory committees at the Region. The revised Terms of Reference was approved at the [May 16, 2019](#) Regional Council meeting.

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee supports the Region in the delivery of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy

York Region's [Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy](#) (endorsed by Council in [October 2017](#)) sets direction for long-term growth of the agriculture and agri-food sector and guides development of policy and program initiatives.

The Strategy articulates a comprehensive set of objectives defined within five strategic goal areas and 45 action items to be implemented over five years. The five strategic goals are to:

1. Strengthen communication and collaboration with York Region, local municipalities and the agri-food sector
2. Support the agri-food sector through integrated land use planning and economic development
3. Support increased capacity for value added agri-food processing and support services
4. Leverage location within GTA and proximity to customers through direct farm marketing and meet demand for local food production
5. Provide support for business retention and expansion of primary agricultural production within York Region

The goals and objectives of the Strategy are supported and integrated with the Regional Council approved Economic Development Action Plan.

4. Analysis

The composition of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee is prescribed in the Terms of Reference

Under the Terms of Reference, the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee is to have balanced representation from producers, input suppliers, food processing, distribution, food retailers and food service. This change was made as part of the recent updates to reflect the intent of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy.

The Committee is to be composed of seven to eleven members from across the Region, including one to two members of Council and the Regional Chair as an ex-officio member. On [December 13, 2018](#), Council appointed the following Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee council representatives:

- Councillor Avia Eek on behalf of Mayor Pellegrini, King Township
- Councillor Hugo Kroon on behalf of Mayor Lovatt, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

The remaining positions on the Committee are to be appointed as follows:

- York Federation of Agriculture: one appointee, plus one alternate
- York Region Food Network: one appointee, plus one alternate
- Other agricultural groups in York Region: up to three appointees, plus three alternates
- Agri-food value chain groups (e.g. input supplier, food processing, distribution, food service and retail) in York Region: up to three appointees, plus three alternates
- Citizens-at-large: one appointee

Recommended members for the Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee meet requirements set out in the Terms of Reference

Citizens and nominated representatives of organizations from agricultural and agri-food groups were invited to apply. A public call for membership was advertised through print and electronic media, including posting on York.ca. In addition, staff reached out to past members and industry associations to spread the word for recruitment. Applicants were assessed based on criteria set out in the Terms of Reference.

Qualified applicants were interviewed by a panel of Regional Staff. Fifteen applications were received from the community and thirteen individuals were interviewed. The list of individuals recommended to Council for appointment to the 2019 to 2022 Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee is provided in Private Attachment 1.

Regional Staff will work with the newly appointed Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Members to implement approved workplan activities

Upon approval, Regional staff will work with the newly appointed Advisory Committee members on implementing approved work plan activities to advance York Region's Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy.

5. Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Local Impact

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee strives to strengthen collaboration between the Region, local municipalities and key agri-food stakeholders. In selecting

proposed committee members, consideration was given to local municipal representation, community diversity and specific experience and qualifications as set out in the Terms of Reference.

7. Conclusion

The Agriculture and Agri-Food Advisory Committee plays an integral role in helping advance the objectives of the Region's Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy. The proposed members for the 2019-2022 term meet all membership requirements and will build on the strengths and successes of previous terms.

For more information on this report, please contact Colin Goodeve, Deputy Regional Clerk at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71320. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Christopher Raynor**
Regional Clerk

Dino Basso
Commissioner of Corporate Services

Approved for Submission: **Bruce Macgregor**
Chief Administrative Officer

September 6, 2019
Private Attachments (1)
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