

Meeting Chair

Mr. John Birchall

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Presentations

1. Ms. Joan Stonehocker, Executive Director, York Region Food Network regarding Community Gardens and endorsement of the York Region Food Network Food Charter. p. 1

Approval of Minutes

2. Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of April 2, 2014. p. 6

Recommendation:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of April 2, 2014 be approved.

Correspondence

Items

3. E-Waste Challenge - Suggestions and Use of New Sponsors. (J. Birchall)
4. Trail Map Update (J. Parsons)
5. Ian Gray Award Review and Action Items.
6. Community Garage Sale (D. Jagger)
7. Review of the Provincial Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting - Brampton, ON (J. Birchall)

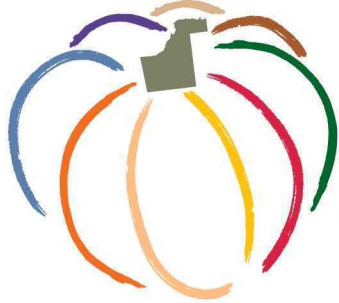
8. Discussion regarding Planning/Building recommendations regarding materials disposal for the demolition of sales pavilions and onsite buildings in development areas. (J. Birchall)
9. Discussion of NEAC Priorities. (J. Birchall) (Rescheduled from Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of April 2, 2014)
10. NEAC Follow-up Meeting with Council (C. Finnerty) (Rescheduled from Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of April 2, 2014)
11. Meeting Schedule for the Balance of the Council Term.
12. Discussion regarding proposed upcoming delegations.

New Business

Meeting Chair

Selection of a Meeting Chair for the June 4, 2014 NEAC Meeting.

Adjournment



YORK REGION FOOD CHARTER

**A GUIDING DOCUMENT FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF COORDINATED
FOOD-RELATED POLICIES AND
PROGRAMS IN YORK REGION**

We believe a collaborative and integrated approach is essential to create a healthy and just food system for all.

We value...

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Access to a variety of healthy and affordable food in all neighbourhoods and facilities.
- Food policies and practices to improve and inspire health.
- The importance of food for physical, mental, emotional and cultural wellbeing.
- Community ownership of healthy, locally-grown and processed food.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Economic development plans that ensure robust and financially sustainable agriculture.
- Innovative food and related industries that unite producer, processor, distributor, health, tourism, education and hospitality sectors.
- Locally-grown traditional and world foods.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Rural and urban agriculture practices that protect biodiversity and improve the health of our land, soil, water, and air.
- Integrating agriculture and food into energy and climate change policies and strategies.
- Protection of agricultural lands and a streamlined regulatory framework.
- Reducing food and packaging waste among consumers, retailers, processors and producers.

EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- The basic right of all residents to safe, nutritious, culturally appropriate, accessible food.
- Dignified access to food for all.
- Fair compensation and a safe and respectful work environment in the agriculture and food sectors.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- Food literacy and skills for all residents, with a focus on food growing, healthy cooking, and composting.
- Education that supports opportunities in the agriculture and food sector.
- Understanding the connections between food, farming, health and the environment.



The York Region Food Charter aligns with a food movement across Canada, promoting a system from farm to plate that provides access to local, affordable and nutritious food. The York Region Food Charter is a vision of thriving urban and rural communities where residents, businesses, and governments are creating a resilient food system.



York Region Food Charter: Backgrounder

Introduction

The York Region Food Charter (YRFC) aligns with a food movement across Canada, promoting a system from farm to plate that provides access to local, affordable and nutritious food. The YRFC is a vision of thriving urban and rural communities where residents, businesses and governments are creating a resilient food system.

Food is fundamental to every municipality and region. It impacts residents daily through processes that bring food from farm to table, and through its waste management practices.

York Region is fortunate to have many well-established food assets. With a strong agricultural heritage, York Region has infrastructure and opportunities for existing and new agri-food businesses to succeed and for residents to have access to local foods. Maintaining a strong local food system requires a collective and collaborative vision. The YRFC was developed through a series of community consultations and it is a vision for agriculture and food in York Region. The YRFC is a coordinated, systems approach to the food system - connecting existing and emerging policies, projects and programs, while celebrating and promoting our local food system.

The York Region Food Charter

To provide leadership in the development of a sustainable food system, the York Region Food Charter Working Group formed in September 2011. Representing York Region agencies, municipalities, community organizations and residents, this Group came together with a common vision – that food system thinking can play a crucial role in building healthy communities that extend “beyond individual dietary behavior, and examines the broader context in which food choices occur”ⁱ.

Rooted in 5 priority areas, economic opportunities, environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing, social justice and equity, and education and skills,

Food Charter: A statement of values and principles intended to guide community organizations and individual community members toward a unified vision for a healthy food system – linking community action and policy. Food charters provide a reference for managing food issues on a system-wide basis.

Local food: “Food that has been grown or caught, processed and distributed as near to the point of consumption as possible. This can include the community, municipality, bioregion, province or country where the food is consumed” (Jennings, A., & Chislett, T. (2012). *Backgrounder on Institutional Procurement of Local Food*. Toronto: Sustain Ontario).

Sustainable Food System: Everything that is required to bring us food and deal with food waste. The food system is sustainable when it is fair and healthy for people and the environment

the YRFC opens the doors for new partnerships and collaborations that will bring economic and environmental gains, while building strong communities.

Priority Areas

Economic Opportunities

A growing and diversifying province means there is growing demand for different types of foods and cuisines in York Region. This offers opportunities for new and expanding food producers and processors in the agri-food sector where “three jobs exist for every agriculture graduate with a bachelor’s degree”ⁱⁱ. Also procurement policies that support local production result in an increase in financial resources remaining in the local economy and “grow through a process known as the multiplier effect – the local economic activity that is triggered by the purchase of an item. Money spent in local businesses generates more wealth and jobs for the local economy. For example, it is estimated that if every household in Ontario spent \$10 a week on local food, there would be an additional \$2.4 billion in the local economy at the end of the year and 10,000 new jobs would be created”ⁱⁱⁱ.

Environmental Sustainability

With only 10 percent of our income going towards food^{iv}, Canadians have a relatively inexpensive food supply. This food supply has come at the cost of environmental degradation, with common food products often traveling thousands of kilometers to reach our grocery stores. Supporting biodiversity and sound agricultural practices ensures the health of the soil and food supply, and contributes significantly to the total economic value of our landscape and economy^v. It aligns with York Region’s SM4RT Living Integrated Waste Management Plan advocating for a waste management hierarchy that promotes reducing, reusing, recycling, recovering to ensure minimum landfill disposal.

Health and Wellbeing

Nutritious food is important to our health. “Poor diet is associated with health problems that include low-weight births, high blood pressure, obesity, arthritis, diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and cancer among others”^{vi}. This has short-term and long-term repercussions for health and well-being, and health related complications resulting from chronic disease alone, is costing the Ontario health system between \$2.2 and \$2.5 billion annually^{vii}. The food system has a role to play in making the healthy choice, the easy choice for residents by ensuring nutritious foods are accessible in private, public and community settings.

Social Justice and Equity

In 1976, Canada committed to the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger through the endorsement of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This commitment was reiterated in 1996, when the Government of Canada endorsed the World Food Summit Plan of Action^{viii}. Food insecurity is the reality of many, and food banks have stepped in to address hunger in communities, including feeding 52,879 people in 8 of York

Region's food banks in 2012^{ix}. Designed to be a temporary emergency measure, food banks have become permanent fixtures in our communities. A healthy food system contributes to long-term solutions that build inclusive, food secure communities.

Education and Skills

Health and education are interconnected. Research shows that if children and youth are exposed to healthy foods when they are young, they are more likely to value and consume healthy food when they are older^x. Developing food literacy and healthy eating habits among children and youth in school contributes to decrease in absenteeism, increase likelihood of graduation and improvement of students' concentration in school. Success in school helps children and youth develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to lead healthy lives.

How does a Food Charter contribute to a stronger York Region?

Food issues are deeply entrenched in daily operations of urban, suburban and rural municipalities and regions, impacting everything from how and where people grow and access foods, to public health messaging around food, and waste management practices.

A Food Charter is a vision of a sustainable food system, based on values and principles that promote health and food security for all. Toronto is home to the first Canadian food charter, adopted in 2001. Since then, 64 municipalities and regions across Canada^{xi} have been working on food policy initiatives to build civic engagement, facilitate collaboration and catalyze actions to strengthen the local food system.

Examples from Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg demonstrate that with collaborative action in forming and implementing a unified vision for a sustainable food system, people start to work together differently to address pressing issues such as ecology and economy, and developing food literacy. These cities also illustrate that a multiplier effect comes from financing of food policy initiatives. For example, between 1991 and 1998, "the Toronto Food Policy Council, funded by the city at the rate of approximately \$220,000 a year, helped raise more than \$7 million dollars from other sources for community food projects"^{xii}.

Recommendations

Food Charters have a significant and integral role to play in celebrating, supporting and strengthening sustainable local food systems. Aligning with many municipal strategies and York Region's Vision 2051, the YRFC is a vehicle to assist in the development of inclusive, healthy, accessible and people-first communities, where a resilient natural environment and agriculture system supports biodiversity and healthy living.

It is recommended that York Region's municipalities and the Region of York endorse the York Region Food Charter.

York Region Food Charter Policy Backgrounder

By endorsing the Food Charter, signatories:

- Acknowledge York Region's food system is vital to our community's health, economic development, environmental sustainability, education and social justice;
- Understand the food system is a complex system with interconnected and interrelated priorities, and are committed to strengthening the food system through coordinated action for food-related programming.

ⁱ Xuereb, M., & Desjardins, E. (2005). *Towards a healthy community food system for Waterloo Region*. Waterloo: Region of Waterloo Public Health. (p.4)

ⁱⁱ York Region Workforce Planning Board. (2013). *2013 Local Labour Market Update*. York Region Workforce Planning Board.

ⁱⁱⁱ Jennings, A., & Chislett, T. (2012). *Backgrounder on Institutional Procurement of Local Food*. Toronto: Sustain Ontario.

^{iv} Canada, A. a.-F. (2010). *The Canadian Consumer: behaviour, attitudes and perceptions towards food products*. Retrieved from http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/statistics/food/canada_consumer_report_en.pdf

^v Jennings, A., & Chislett, T. (2012). *Backgrounder on Ecological Goods and Services*. Toronto: Sustain Ontario.

^{vi} Eat Right Ontario. (2011). *Children's health - overweight and obesity*. Retrieved from <http://www.eatrightontario.ca/en/viewdocument.aspx?id=5>

^{vii} Winne, M. (2013). *Ontario: the case for a provincial food policy council*. Toronto : Sustain Ontario. (p.2-3)

^{viii} Government of Canada. (1998). *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security: in response to the World Food Summit plan of action*. Ottawa: Government of Canada.

^{ix} York Region Food Network. (2013). *Food for Change: from charity to dignity*. Aurora: York Region Food Network.

^x Somerset, S., Ball, R., Geissman, R., & Flett, M. (2005). School-based community gardens: re-establishing healthy relationships with food. *Journal of HEIA*, 25-33.

^{xi} MacRae, R., & Donahue, K. (2013). *Municipal Food Policy Entrepreneurs: a preliminary analysis of how Canadian cities and regional districts are involved in food system change*.

* Experienced representatives on this Committee may include: Farmers, processors, chefs, restaurateurs, community organizations, urban agriculture, municipal/region officials, academics, housing cooperatives, food distributors, school boards, early childhood centres, business leaders, etc.

The meeting of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 in the Mulock Room, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: Councillor Twinney
John Birchall
Philip Breault
Wes Guldemon
Doug Jagger
Jill King
Dayna Laxton
Joanna Parsons

Absent: Geoff Shore

Staff Present: M. Plaunt, Senior Planner - Policy
C. Schritt, Traffic Technician
C. Finnerty, Council/Committee Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Wes Guldemon in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Twinney
Seconded by Joanna Parsons

THAT the Additions and Corrections to the Agenda noted in the addendum be adopted.

Carried

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Approval of Minutes

1. Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of March 5, 2014.

Moved by John Birchall

Seconded by Dayna Laxton

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of March 5, 2014 be approved.

Carried

Presentations

2. Presentation by Ms. Marion Plaunt, Senior Planner – Policy regarding the Newmarket Urban Centres Secondary Plan and Active Transportation Network.

The Senior Planner – Policy provided an overview of the main changes to the density, heights and bonusing policies, interim development policies, angular plane policies and the new parkland schedule found in the Revised Draft Secondary Plan. She also addressed NEAC's previous comments in respect to urban design, massing and built form, including garbage and loading integration in building, bird friendly practices, screened roof top communities, energy and sustainability, signage and coordination and phasing of development.

A special public meeting will be held on April 28, 2014 for the public to provide feedback on the revised draft.

Discussion ensued with respect to revisions to the plan, the angular plane policy, bird friendly practices and dark skies. The Committee was requested to submit comments to John Birchall for compilation and submission to the Senior Planner – Policy by April 25, 2014.

Items

3. Correspondence

Moved by Joanna Parsons

Seconded by Philip Breault

THAT the correspondence items, previously distributed by e-mail, be received.

Carried

4. Natural Heritage Areas Brochure

Dayna Laxton compiled the comments received with respect to the Natural Heritage Areas Brochure and submitted them to the Traffic Technician. NEAC's suggestions, including updates to the map for enhanced visibility have been incorporated into the revised draft. Discussion ensued regarding map size and inclusion of a QR code or google shortened link to NEAC's web presence.

5. Trail Map Update

Joanna Parsons provided an update on the progress of the trail map, including funding and printing discussions. Dayna Laxton provided information on EDDMapS Ontario, the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System for invasive species reporting. Discussion ensued regarding invasive species and availability of the trail maps for the Holland River Clean-up event.

6. Community Garage Sale

Dayna Laxton advised that the venue for the event on May 31, 2014 has been confirmed, insurance has been obtained from the Town and registration is now open. Volunteers are required to assist with event setup, to direct traffic and collect registration fees.

Discussion ensued regarding staffing the event, site setup, advertising and purchase of additional signs. Wes Guldemon, Jill King and Doug Jagger to assist with the event. Wes Guldemon and Doug Jagger to revise graphics and text on the signs. Doug Jagger to aid in distribution of event flyers. Councillor Twinney to follow up with staff to obtain pylons and barriers for the parking and event areas.

7. Neighbourhood Community Gardens

John Birchall advised that the recommendations from the March 5, 2014 NEAC meeting will come forward to the Committee of the Whole at their next meeting.

8. Participation in Holland River Clean-up

John Birchall provided an update on the Holland River Clean-up event. The Committee agreed to participate this year with a booth at the event on Saturday, May 3, 2014 and discussed member participation.

9. Earth Hour Review and Recommendations

John Birchall provided an update on the Earth Hour event. Newmarket had the lowest total reduction in York Region.

Discussion ensued regarding further community engagement opportunities, including marketing strategies and increased advertising of the event in the community.

10. Report on Regional Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

John Birchall provided a verbal report on the presentations and discussions held at the Regional EAC meeting. The next Regional Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting date has been moved to September in order to facilitate the 2014 municipal election.

11. Provincial Environmental Advisory Symposium - Brampton, ON

John Birchall advised that the agenda for the Provincial EAC symposium has not yet been distributed. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2014.

12. Resignation of NEAC Member

Moved by Dayna Laxton
Seconded by John Birchall

The Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee recommends to Council:

THAT Stacey Tidman's resignation from the Environmental Advisory Committee be accepted with regret;

AND THAT no replacement be appointed in the remainder of this term of Council.

Carried

New Business

13. a) Jill King directed the Committee's attention to an article published in the Toronto Star on March 31, 2014 regarding Japan's aquaponic initiatives.

b) John Birchall suggested that the Committee review means of engaging schools in environmental initiatives.

Adjournment

Moved by Doug Jagger
Seconded by Councillor Twinney

THAT the meeting adjourn.

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Date

Wes Guldemon, Meeting Chair

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mulock Room
Meeting Chair: John Birchall