
REPORT TITLE: **Proposed Work Plan for the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee**

FROM: Andrew Farr, Interim Commissioner of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION

That the Terms of Reference of the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee be amended to include the selection process and eligibility requirements of non-elected members, as outlined in the report of the Interim Commissioner of Public Works, titled “Proposed Work Plan for the Peel Planning Advisory Committee”;

And further, that the work plan, attached as Appendix II to the subject report, be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- On January 10, 2019, Council approved establishing the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) and its Terms of Reference (Appendix I), as a result of changes to the *Planning Act* via Bill 73 (2015).
 - Staff were further directed to report back to Council with a proposed Advisory Committee work plan (Resolution 2019-31), to be utilized during the public membership recruitment process.
 - Minor amendments to the Planning Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix I) have been proposed to clarify the membership selection process, as per the Council endorsed selection of public members (Resolution 2019-1156).
 - The process has been paused during the 2019 Regional Governance Review initiated by the Province and a 2020 focus on pandemic response.
 - This report provides information on the proposed work plan of the Planning Advisory Committee (Appendix II), which includes reviewing and providing ongoing advice on study direction, policy input, public engagement approaches and associated work for the Region’s Peel 2041+ Official Plan Review work plan, other broad regional planning policy directions initiatives and Growth Management Program.
 - Peel Regional Council would remain as the decision-making body on Regional Planning matters as required by the *Planning Act*.
 - The proposed work plan will be used in the public membership recruitment and selection process. It will then be updated for Council approval when recommendations are made to Council on public membership appointments in the future.
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Proposed Work Plan for the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee

DISCUSSION

1. Background

As a result of changes to the *Planning Act* by *Bill 73: Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015*, the Province of Ontario requires upper and single-tier municipalities to establish a Planning Advisory Committee. The purpose of a Planning Advisory Committee is to provide greater opportunity for public members to participate in regional planning. Public participation would occur both through member participation on the Advisory Committee and through the meetings themselves. The meetings would allow for the general public and stakeholders to review agenda materials, attend meetings and engage in discussions where technical and background material would be the subject of presentation(s) by experts.

Several neighbouring jurisdictions have already implemented a Planning Advisory Committee of some form, including Durham Region, York Region, and Niagara Region. Other advisory committee's that currently exist within the Region of Peel include Peel's Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG), Caledon's Active Transportation Task Force, Brampton's Environment Advisory Committee, and Mississauga's Cycling Advisory Committee.

On January 10, 2019, the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee (the Advisory Committee) was established by Council and its Terms of Reference was approved (Appendix I) (Resolution 2019-31). Amendments to the Terms of Reference were primarily made to membership selection process, so that the Advisory Committee would only consist of community members and report directly to Regional Council as a whole.

The Advisory Committee would be comprised of up to nine members of the public, with up to three public members from each local municipality. The criteria for membership would be:

- Shall be residents of the Region of Peel;
- Shall not be an employee of the Region of Peel or any municipality in the Region of Peel;
- Shall not be a current Regional Council member; and
- Shall not be directly affiliated with the development industry or other specific interest groups related to the planning and development industry

The members shall represent the interests of the broader community. Regional Council shall appoint non-elected members to the Committee by resolution.

The mandate of the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee would be to:

- Provide input on the Region's long-term community vision and initiatives, and key land use planning matters;
- Promote input from members of the public on planning matters in the Region of Peel; and
- Champion land use planning literacy, education, and outreach in the Region of Peel.

Staff have since proposed additional amendments to the Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference (Appendix I) to clarify the membership selection process, as per the Council endorsed selection of public members to Committee of Council in 2019 (Resolution 2019-1156).

Proposed Work Plan for the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee

Staff were also directed to report back to Council with a proposed work plan to be used during the public membership recruitment process for the Advisory Committee. Implementation of the Committee is required in order to comply with the *Planning Act*. The proposed work plan is planned to be updated for Council approval at the time when recommendations are made to Council on public membership appointments in the future.

Proposed Work Plan of the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee

Appendix II outlines the proposed Planning Advisory Committee work plan. The role of the Planning Advisory Committee includes providing input and advice throughout the process for the remainder of the Regional Official Plan Review (Peel 2041+), ongoing input in land use related elements of the Growth Management Program and other planning related matters such as employment planning research, age friendly planning, transportation planning, climate change and environmental planning.

The work plan also includes the Planning Advisory Committee providing advice on public engagement strategies associated with the Regional Official Plan Review. The proposed work plan is also aligned with work plans of other municipalities with established Planning Advisory Committees.

The work plan will focus on seeking advice and general input from the Advisory Committee on high level Regional planning matters. As such, the Advisory Committee would not provide direct input on local municipal and/or site-specific planning matters or development related applications. The Advisory Committee would be open to receiving input from local planning and development-related committees regarding Peel's community vision and planning matters. The Advisory Committee will have an annual work plan and report to Council through the Planning and Growth Management section

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Further delay in moving forward with the Planning Advisory Committee increases risk to the Region in terms of:

- Non-compliance with the *Planning Act* through changes introduced by Bill 73; and
- Less input from members of the public on regional planning matters.

NEXT STEPS

Staff plan to begin the recruitment and selection process for public members of the Region of Peel Planning Advisory Committee by March 2021 and it is anticipated to take approximately three to four months to finalize membership. Subsequent to the completion of the interviews, Regional staff would report to a future meeting of Regional Council regarding the suitability of the prospective candidates recommended for approval, including a summary of eligible candidates and their rankings. Regional Council is to appoint all community members by resolution.

Recruitment would be led by Regional planning staff with support from the Office of the Regional Clerk. Considering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff will endeavour to utilize a variety of virtual engagement techniques including leveraging the Peel 2041+ website

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to publish materials and advertise the recruitment process. Staff will be responsive to the changing external conditions and modify the online interview process as required.

The proposed work plan will be utilized in the upcoming recruitment and selection process. The work plan will be further updated, as necessary and brought forward to Council when recommendations are made for public membership appointments.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Planning Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix II – Planning Advisory Committee Proposed Work Plan

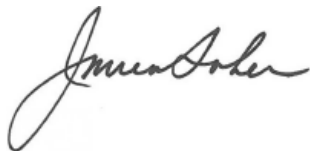
For further information regarding this report, please contact Adrian Smith, Chief Planner and Acting Director of Regional Planning and Growth Management, Adrian.smith@peelregion.ca 905-791-7800 ext. 4047

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Reviewed and/or approved in workflow by:

Department Commissioner and Division Director.

Final approval is by the Chief Administrative Officer.



J. Baker, Chief Administrative Officer