



**The Corporation of the Township of Scugog  
Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Open Session at 9:00 AM**

**January 9, 2026  
9:00 AM  
Basement Boardroom, Municipal Building  
181 Perry Street, Port Perry**

**Members Present:**

Vice Chair, Mathew Somerville  
Josh Malcolm  
Councillor, Robert Rock  
Brett Puckrin  
Terry Vos  
Penny Waller

**Also Present:**

Committee Coordinator Lindsay Burnett  
Director of Communication & Strategic Projects, Lori Bowers  
Manager, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development, Invest  
Durham, Stacey Jibb  
Economic Development Advisor, OMAFA, Carolyn Puterbough  
Rural Economic Development Specialist, Invest Durham,  
Jessica Rhynas

**Members Absent:**

Chair, Michael Cascone

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**1. Call to Order**

Staff called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgment**

Staff acknowledged the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and recognized the contributions of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples to the community, the province and the country.

**3. Welcome Josh Malcolm - New EDAC Member**

Mr. Josh Malcolm was introduced and welcomed as a new member to the Committee. Mr. Malcolm is the owner / operator of Woodland Mills, located on Scugog Line 6.

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature Thereof**

Nil

**5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair/Treasurer Positions**

Staff began the process of conducting the election for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair/ Treasurer. Before nominations were called for, Staff advised the Members that Mr. Mike Cascone, who could not be present for today's meeting, provided in writing to Staff that he would be pleased to accept the role of Chair if his name were to be put forward for nomination.

Staff called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair, which resulted in Mr. Mike Cascone being nominated for the position. No further nominations for the position of Chair were put forth.

A call for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice Chair/Treasurer resulted in Mr. Matthew Somerville being nominated for the position, which he accepted. No other nominations were put forth for the position of Vice Chair/Treasurer.

At this point in the meeting, Staff handed the meeting over to the Vice Chair, Mr. Somerville, to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Brett Puckrin

**That** the Committee accepts the written correspondence submitted to Staff, from Mike Cascone, in which he has advised that if nominated for the position of Chair, he would accept.

**Carried**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Matthew Somerville

**That** Mr. Mike Cascone be appointed as Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for the year of 2026.

**Carried**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Terry Vos

**That** Mr. Matthew Somerville be appointed as Vice Chair/Treasurer of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for 2026, to act in place and stead of the Chairperson when he is absent.

**Carried**

**6. Adoption of Minutes**

**6.1 Minutes of the November 7, 2025, Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Brett Puckrin

**That** the minutes of the November 5, 2025, Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

**Carried**

**7. Business Arising Out of the Minutes**

Nil

**8. Presentations and Delegations**

**8.1 Misty Santos - Executive Director, North Durham Chamber of Commerce**

Preliminary Discussions with Durham Transit

Staff noted that Ms. Santos had not yet arrived at the meeting. The Committee agreed to proceed with the next agenda item and then come back to this matter once Ms. Santos was present.

## 9. Reports / Updates

### 9.1 Welcome Wagon Subcommittee Update

The Committee agreed that this item should be moved to the next meeting since Mr. Cascone and Ms. Santos, who have been leading this initiative, are not present to speak to the topic.

#### **Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Brett Puckrin

**That** this item be tabled and added to the next meeting agenda, as the two individuals who have been leading this initiative are not present to speak to the topic.

**Carried**

## 10. Scugog Business Program

Regional Staff provided a high-level refresher of the Scugog Business Plan. Based on the action items listed in the Scugog Business Plan, Staff and Regional Staff developed a small list of feasible action items for the Committee to consider for their 2026 work plan:

- Business Spotlight
- CIP Awareness
- Third Party Transit
- Investment Attraction for Overnight Accommodations
- Event Process Support
- DEI Training Support

### 10.1 ROD Grant Application Update

Staff noted that a Rural Ontario Development grant intake is opening, and the Township intends to submit an application to assist in implementing the action items of the Scugog Business Plan. Staff and Council will be making a delegation to the Ministry of Rural Affairs at the upcoming ROMA conference, and among other matters, are seeking support for the SBP action items.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Santos arrived. The Committee agreed to allow Ms. Santos to make here delegation at this point.

**8.1 Misty Santos - Executive Director, North Durham Chamber of Commerce Cont'd**

Preliminary Discussions with Durham Transit

Ms. Santos is working with the North Durham Chamber of Commerce members to host a town hall meeting for the purpose of discussing transportation challenges that North Durham businesses are facing for their employees to get to and from work.

The town hall is scheduled for January 14th at noon via Zoom. The goal of the town hall is to gain perspective and gather information. It should be understood that it is not to establish solutions. That would be premature.

The Committee moved back to the ROD Grant Application Update discussion.

**10.1 ROD Grant Application Update Cont'd**

Staff requested a letter of support from the EDAC to be included in the ROD grant application.

The Committee engaged in conversation on items from the Action Plan that could formulate the 2026 work plan and identified some possible items on their work plan:

- Investment Attraction
- Third Party Transit
- Business Highlights and CIP Awareness

Staff was asked to include 2026 work plan on the next EDAC meeting agenda for discussion.

**11. Correspondence**

Nil

**12. Business Updates / Changes**

No information shared at this time.

**13. Other Matters**

**13.1 Port Perry Fairgrounds Visioning Exercise**

The Committee noted that they have not provided input for the visioning exercise for the Fairgrounds. The group decided to meet separately, without staff and council to collect their thoughts and input in writing, to be provided to the consultant for the visioning exercise.

Additionally, they discussed that they would like to have a facilitated session with the consultant.

Staff was asked to connect with the consultant and have them reach out to the committee and set up a facilitated session. Staff and Council will not be part of this session.

**14. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Friday, February 29, 2026 at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Moved by:** Penny Waller

**That** the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

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Matthew Somerville, Vice Chair