



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on January 6, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach – Chair Presiding, Craig Merkley, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Vanni Azzano, Sammie Orr, Emily Skelding, Mike Sullivan, Geoff Krauter, Anita Jacobsen, Mike Jorna, Felicity Sutcliffe, Patricia Osoko

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

Staff called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Introduction of New Members

Staff welcomed Felicity Sutcliffe and Patricia Osoko to the Committee. Ms. Sutcliffe, Ms. Osoko and Committee members introduced themselves.

4.0 Election of 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2022 Chair of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee.

The following nominations were received:

- Councillor Burbach nominated Emily Skelding.
- Geoff Krauter nominated Mike Sullivan.
- Emily Skelding nominated Mike Jorna.
- Sammie Orr nominated Councillor Burbach.

Energy & Environment Advisory Committee
January 6, 2022

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Vanni Azzano
Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the nominations for the 2022 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried

Emily Skelding indicated that she would not allow her nomination to stand.

Mike Sullivan indicated that he would not allow his nomination to stand.

Mike Jorna indicated that he would not allow his nomination to stand.

Councillor Burbach indicated that she would allow her nomination to stand.

Motion by Mike Sullivan
Seconded by Sammie Orr

THAT Councillor Burbach be elected as the 2022 Chair of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2022 Vice-Chair of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee open.

The following nominations were received:

- Councillor Burbach nominated Sammie Orr.
- Sammie Orr nominated Emily Skelding.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

Motion by Mike Jorna
Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT nominations for the 2022 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Sammie Orr indicated that she would not allow her nomination to stand.

Emily Skelding indicated that she would allow her nomination to stand.

Motion by Councillor Henderson
Seconded by Anita Jacobsen

THAT Emily Skelding be elected as the 2022 Vice-Chair of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee. Carried

5.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Mike Sullivan
Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated December 2, 2021, be adopted as printed. Carried

6.0 Updates from Carbon Reduction, Ecological and I.C.I. Waste Reduction Working Groups

Ecological

Craig Merkley advised he would like to re-visit the salt usage in Stratford. He has contacted City Centre representatives to discuss and possibly work together on a plan. Mike Jorna noted that years ago, Council advised staff use a mixture of 30-40% salt mixed with sand. However, he does not feel that this same ratio is being used today. Mr. Jorna suggested a report from staff on how they treat sidewalks/roads in the winter is most likely available from the Public Works Department. Craig Merkley will follow up with Public Works to gather some information. Councillor Burbach noted that staff may have previously done an audit and have an updated salt management plan in place. Anita Jacobsen added that downtown merchants are responsible for clearing the snow in front of their businesses. Perhaps an educational approach directed at merchants may be beneficial to raise awareness. Councillor Henderson stated that the by-law may have to be updated to clearly state what business owners should be using to salt and sand the sidewalks. Mike Jorna suggested researching and getting all the correct information to make a well-informed recommendation in the future.

The working group is still discussing plans for the T.J. Dolan area and will report back at the next meeting.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported the working group did not meet in December. They would welcome any members who might be interested in joining the working group.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the working group will be focusing on large chain grocery stores and the amount of waste they produce. The first item they will focus on is the plastic produce bags and encourage compostable or paper bags. They will work with the Waste Coordinator to ensure there is a product that is acceptable for Stratford's green bin program before promoting them.

They also discussed a "Green Star" award program to acknowledge all the waste reduction and waste initiatives that local businesses are implementing. They would also like to reach out to other groups that have their own award ceremonies and ask if

January 6, 2022

they would be interested in including an environmental section in their ceremonies to encourage and incentivize businesses to take environmental action.

7.0 Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee

No new updates.

8.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

No new updates.

b) Update from Council on Climate Action Plan

No new updates.

Sammie Orr inquired when budget discussions will be nearing completion and some of these decisions may be considered. Councillor Burbach stated that by the February E&E meeting they may be able to provide some more information.

Mike Sullivan inquired if the new Climate Change Co-ordinator position for Stratford is part of the budget considerations. Councillor Burbach noted that the Shared Climate Change Co-ordinator is slated to continue, the Stratford Co-ordinator position will be brought up during discussions by herself and Councillor Henderson.

Sammie Orr inquired if it is possible for E&E to start passing recommendations at the February meeting to ensure that climate change issues are included in the 2022 budget. Councillor Burbach stated that there is an upcoming feedback survey that will be submitted to Council which could have an impact on issues.

Mike Sullivan noted that Council endorsed the Climate Action Plan, which included a request for a Stratford Climate Change Co-ordinator position. He is hoping that Council will strongly consider adding the position. He stated that with Stratford only having eight years to reduce carbon by 30%, it may not be achieved without someone at the helm.

Emily Skelding inquired if the Shared Climate Co-ordinator could be invited to attend the monthly E&E meetings. Councillor Burbach will contact the Co-ordinator to inquire if attending the meeting would be something she could fit into her schedule.

c) Update from Council on Trow Avenue Development

No new updates.

d) Update from Council on Request to Adopt a Tax Deferral Program to Encourage Green Development in Stratford

No new updates.

e) Update on Flood Line Map/Information – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan forwarded a detailed response he received from the UTRCA to all E&E members for everyone's information. The map that is included with the response is very interesting. Mr. Sullivan suggested that in the process of updating the Official Plan, perhaps how the Plan is affected by the flood maps and whether for example, the City should be paving over non-paved surfaces should form part of the Plan.

Craig Merkley noted that this is an important issue as climates continue to change.

f) Update on Electric Vehicle Incentive Program – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr inquired if there was any movement on the proposed incentive program for electric vehicles. Councillor Henderson stated they are waiting to hear back from staff regarding this. Councillor Burbach noted that staff may have applied for some funding for additional electric charging stations but have not heard back to date. Staff will contact Chris Bantock to inquire if he would be available to attend the March E&E meeting.

g) Repaving Rotary Parking Lot/Geothermal Options – Emily Skelding

Emily Skelding inquired what stage this project and discussions on geothermal options was left off at and could the discussion continue in 2022. Councillor Burbach took the idea to the Community Services Sub-committee for discussion. Councillor Burbach will look at the list of capital projects coming up and see when the Rotary parking lot is scheduled to be redesigned.

9.0 New Business

None reported.

10.0 Upcoming Events

- Festival Hydro Tree Power Event – April 2022

11.0 Date of Next Meeting – February 3, 2022 – 4:00 p.m., electronically

12.0 Adjournment

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the January 6, 2022 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:01 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:17 P.M.