



**A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee
was held on the above date at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Annex, 82 Erie Street, Stratford ON – Avon Meeting Room**

Present: Emily Chandler – Chair Presiding, *Councillor Bonnie Henderson, *Dave Hanly, *Marianne Hawley, Craig Merkley, Vanni Azzano, Sammie Orr, Mike Jorna, Matthew Orchard, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

Staff Present: *Taylor Crinklaw – Project Engineer, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Lorraine Kuepfer

Absent: Anna Stratton, Dave Mabee, Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator

MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Emily Chandler called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES – April 4, 2019

Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Mike Jorna that the minutes dated April 4, 2019 are adopted as printed. Carried.

*Councillor Henderson now present (4:04 p.m.)

4.0 DELEGATE: Lorraine Kuepfer – Bee City

Lorrain Kuepfer introduced herself to committee members and explained her involvement with Bee City. She explained how Bee City, Bee City Canada and Bee City Stratford are working towards cultivating a new ethic in communities and homes. Bee City is 100% volunteer based, including the directors. They are extremely connected to indigenous teachings of respecting nature. Stratford became the fourth Canadian Bee City and the second community in Ontario in 2017.

*Marianne Hawley now present (4:06 p.m.)

Currently, there are 24 Bee Cities, 24 Bee Schools, 18 Bee Businesses and a Bee City Faith Community. Bee City stretches from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland to the Yukon. Ms. Kuepfer runs the social media account for Bee City Stratford and sends out a post each week that is educational and positive. The priorities of Bee City are to reach out to the indigenous community, education, emphasizing youth involvement, increasing pollinator habitat and biodiversity.

*Dave Hanly now present (4:10 p.m.)

Each year the City of Stratford must submit an application to maintain their Bee City status. As part of the program, each city must form a pollinator working group, which Ms. Kuepfer has organized. Ms. Kuepfer asked E&E members to please keep her informed of all projects that the committee has worked on to also include in the applications.

Ms. Kuepfer stressed that the native bees are in great danger. People need to respect nature and everyone can make a difference. Encouraging citizens to plant native plants will help attract native bees. Dave Hanly inquired if Ms. Kuepfer has any stats on native bees in Ontario? She explained that there are stats for Ontario and pesticides are the greatest threat to the bees. Mike Jorna encouraged Ms. Kuepfer to connect with local service clubs to assist with funding and assist with demonstration projects. Dave Hanly inquired what E&E can do to help facilitate a better habitat? Ms. Kuepfer explained that if the city can increase the number of native trees, shrubs and plants within the park system, that would help greatly. Matthew Orchard inquired if Bee City Stratford has a "wish list" of goals for the city? Ms. Kuepfer stated that they have just formed the committee and getting started. Craig Merkley stated that encouraging the naturalization of industrial and commercial properties would be a good goal. Vanni Azzano stated they are currently working with Bedford School planting wild flowers in their old baseball diamond area.

5.0 UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

Carbon Reduction

Emily Chandler and Sammie Orr have been working on the cosmetic repurposing project and it has been going really well. Mike Beitz informed them that to date, there has been 33,000 hits on the city's Facebook page and shared 415 times.

Ms. Chandler informed the committee that Mike Beitz has been doing social media updates on the waste and recycling changes in Stratford. This has been helping the initiative to have restaurants try to reduce their waste by giving examples of how they can make changes. He has also been sharing information on issues that restaurants face, such as recyclable or compostable take-out containers. Vanni Azzano inquired if the take-out containers are an issue that the Waste Reduction Coordinator would address? Ms. Chandler noted that she received all her information for Stratford from Bluewater

Recycling directly. She has also encouraged any business owners to get in touch with the city's Waste Reduction Coordinator with any questions they might have prior to purchasing containers.

Councillor Burbach stated that the city is currently working on a quote for a green bin program, even if Stratford does not have their own facility here. Some compostable containers will be able to go into a green bin.

Ms. Chandler has been in contact with the Social Services Maintenance Manager and he will distribute the LED light bulbs for use in Stratford's geared for income housing.

Ecological

Craig Merkley updated the committee that UTRCA engineering staff would like to see the John Street weir left out this season to coincide with the Shakespeare pedestrian bridge repairs being done this summer. This would be a good trial to see how the water flows this season without the weir, before a decision is made to permanently remove it.

Taylor Crinklaw reported that the entire Queen Street project is estimated at over \$24,000,000.00 and remains as an unfunded project. Staff has submitted an application for funding, however have not heard if they are successful.

*Taylor Crinklaw no longer present (4:35 p.m.)

Mr. Merkley reported that the shoreline work is at a standstill, they have been rained out and unable to finish the job. They are hoping to begin work next week, weather permitting. The media event has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 29th at 2:30 p.m.

Vanni Azzano reported that the UTRCA completed the tree planting along the Avon River with students. They planted half the trees (75) and Community Services will be doing the remaining 75. Craig Merkley reported that students planted 150 trees around Shakespeare Pond. This is the 25th year that the students have been doing various plantings.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Request to Update the Roundtable for the Environment – Update

Craig Merkley and Councillor Henderson met with Rob Horne to discuss Roundtable plans. They discussed the newly created Climate Change position and what that staff member will be looking after. At this time, there has not been a mandate set for the position. The CAO is going to review the current Roundtable for the Environment document and meet again with interested E&E members to see how they can tie it into the city's Strategic Priorities. Councillor Burbach will circulate the strategic priorities information to members.

(b) Green Program Update – Vanni Azzano

Vanni Azzano updated the committee that the Grade 7's helped clean up the drain on Matilda Street between Huron and Douglas Street and along the Sobeys parking lot. Councillor Henderson reported they also went back out and did around the Giant Tiger parking lot. Currently, they are drafting a report on the program and what they have learned. The next step is the "taking it public" stage, figuring out how to make the public aware of what they did, how it helped and future involvement for the public. The Grade 8's are working on a target date of the June 6th E&E committee meeting to present their green cone digester report.

(c) Climate Momentum Blog Update – Emily Chandler

Emily Chandler reported that the climate momentum website has launched with weekly blogs and articles. They are also on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

7.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

Avon River Media Event	May 29, 2019 @ 2:30 p.m.
London Water Festival VIP Tour	May 15, 2019
Stratford Water Day	April 22, 2020
Perth Children's Water Festival	May 26-28, 2020

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

(a) Greening Projects for the City – Mike Jorna

Mike Jorna discussed the idea of a "tree tour" around the City of Stratford to view past and ongoing greening projects and future project ideas. Organizing a bus tour for E&E members, Council and staff to visit all the various project that have been done along the Avon River watershed from Shakespeare Pond down to Dunn's Bridge. Mr. Jorna stated there are far too many large mature trees being taken down. Citizens are cutting down large trees on private property quickly. The trees to human ratio requirements are far too low. Conservatively, various reports state the ratio of trees to humans should be 200:1. Stratford is drastically below these ratios. A discussion between E&E members and staff would be beneficial to brainstorm on how best to move forward with plans for greening the city and to educate citizens on the importance of greening their private property. Without a tree policy for Stratford, it is not possible to enforce tree planting on private property. Councillor Burbach added that the last statistics for woodland cover in the City of Stratford is from 2004 and it is 2.9%. This is considered to be low, as rural areas in the region are at 11% for the whole watershed. The recommended target coverage commonly cited in landscaping and ecology literature is 25-30%. These percentages all must be balanced by various factors, such as urban settings.

Motion by Mike Jorna, seconded by Sammie Orr that the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee invites Community Services Staff to attend an upcoming committee meeting to discuss the Roundtable for the Environment and to explore what they see possible for urban forestry in Stratford. Carried.

Staff will contact the Director of Community Services and the Parks Manager to invite them to attend the June 6th E&E meeting.

Dave Hanly also suggested a plan to initiate discussions with rural partners in the surrounding municipalities to explore what can be done in a broader scale.

Craig Merkley stated that over the years they have been using a trust fund towards greening projects. There is a small amount still left to use. Dave Hanly inquired what can be done publicly to build these trust funds up. This would allow people with a concern and love for the environment to contribute money towards greening projects. Further discussion regarding this with staff at the June meeting.

9.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – June 6, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.– Rotary Complex (Mansbridge Rm.)

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vanni Azzano, seconded by Marianne Hawley that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Time: 5:20 p.m.