



A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee was held on December 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., electronically.

Members Present: Emily Chandler –Chair Presiding, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Vanni Azzano, Mike Jorna, Sammie Orr, Anna Stratton, Geoff Krauter, Anita Jacobsen, *Craig Merkley, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator, Marianne Hawley, Matthew Orchard

MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof.

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

**Motion by Anna Stratton, seconded by Anita Jacobsen
THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee
meeting dated November 5, 2020 be adopted as printed.
Carried.**

4.0 Updates from Carbon Reduction & Ecological Working Groups

No new updates provided.

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Update on Climate Action Plan – Emily Chandler

Committee members have all received the draft management report from the Deputy Clerk to review. Emily Chandler noted that discussion of the report at Council has been postponed and will hopefully be on the agenda before the end of the year. Councillor Burbach reported that funding for the Climate Coordinator position has been discussed by Council at the budget meetings. Emily Chandler will send out the updates she has received to date to the committee.

*Craig Merkley now present (4:14 p.m.)

(b) 2020 Project Plans and Budget Update

LID Project Update – Vanni Azzano

Vanni Azzano updated the committee that he has met with City staff, representatives from the Skate Park, Stratford Rotary and the designer to review the site for the planned LID project. It is very well laid out for a LID project with good options for bio-swales and rain gardens. They will also include information boards in the park explaining how the LID project works. They will proceed with the design and also do some soil samples before the project begins.

Avon River Shoreline Update – Craig Merkley

Craig Merkley updated the committee that all the supplies have been purchased for the project. Now that the water level has been dropped, UTRCA will do some final design and elevation calculations. Mr. Merkley estimates work will begin in February 2021.

Invasive Species Update – Craig Merkley

Craig Merkley reported that the crew is in T.J. Dolan today beginning their work on the European Buckthorn. The work will take 1-2 days. Mr. Merkley will put together some information to submit for a media release to keep citizens up to date on the work they are doing. Staff will also be looking at the myrtle in the spring to try and control it.

Compost Cow Update – Sammie Orr

The compost cow is working very well, using food scraps from the Screaming Avocado. They are starting to get compost material now. The tech program is unable to manufacture the collection bins, so alternatively they are going to purchase four bins to place throughout the school.

(c) Proposed Glass Plant – Emily Chandler

The committee has received some additional information since discussing the proposed plant at the November meeting.

Anna Stratton inquired if the City has done an environmental assessment and if the Climate Coordinator and UTRCA have reviewed the plant proposal? She inquired what the E&E Committee can do to make any changes and feels there is a demand for a public meeting. Councillor Burbach reported that there are several environmental reports now posted on the City's website. However, there is not a greenhouse gas emissions report and she has requested this information. There is not a public meeting scheduled, however Council is meeting on December 14, 2020

for a question and answer meeting with the glass company. A subsequent meeting on the cost-sharing agreement is being held on December 16, 2020.

Councillor Henderson reported she tuned in to the start of the public information session prior to this meeting. They did address a greenhouse gas report and stated they are in the process of putting together the report. She stated that during the information session they were discussing the dormitory set up, heavy industry criteria, which the glass plant is not, wages, truck activity in and out and water usage in comparison to other factories.

Sammie Orr questioned if with the Climate Action Plan going to Council and a climate emergency declared, should Stratford be considering a factory that will be polluting the environment? Stratford should be thinking about their carbon footprint and start moving forward as a community to lower emissions.

Mike Jorna has reviewed all the reports and still does not feel that the numbers look good for Stratford. Just merely meeting emissions standards, does not mean the impact of a factory this size won't create a huge load into the atmosphere of the City and on the water supply and sewer system. Recycling the water and reclaiming the heat could also reduce the plant's natural gas consumption. The plant will create employment and possible light industries around it. The City of Stratford should not be satisfied with the company meeting minimum environmental standards. The glass company has this opportunity to be a leading example of how a factory can be environmentally responsible if they make the choice to do so.

Geoff Krauter would like to know if they can somehow recycle the large amount of water they will be using as opposed to evaporation. He can appreciate that the company has made some effort to be more transparent this time. He does not know if citizens will be comfortable accepting living with the minimum standards developers are proposing and can citizens trust that they will in fact even meet the minimum standards.

Anita Jacobson added that they are emitting too much carbon and it does not make sense to support this industry during a climate emergency. If the company can find a way to make their industry more carbon-neutral, such as an electric furnace, it would be a better option to reduce their carbon footprint.

Motion by Mike Jorna, seconded by Anna Stratton

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee requests Xinyi be required to submit a greenhouse gas emissions report prior to Council making a final decision;

And THAT Council rejects the glass plant proposal based on the current standards proposed by Xinyi due to environmental concerns.

Carried

Motion by Mike Jorna, seconded by Anna Stratton

THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee recommends that Council directs Xinyi to investigate ways to evaporate less water and a plan to reclaim a larger amount of heat.

Carried.

6.0 New Business

(a) Climate Change Community Survey – Emily Chandler

The survey is now available online. Emily Chandler encouraged members to participate and share the link with others. Anna Stratton suggested sending out to organizations to share with their memberships to boost participation.

(b) Provincial Blue Box Program – Anna Stratton

Councillor Burbach previously shared information with the committee regarding Ontario's blue box program. Anna Stratton noted that feedback on the website is being accepted until midnight tonight. Ms. Stratton inquired what specifically is the concern for Stratford and what feedback should be shared on the platform?

Councillor Burbach stated it is mostly the scope of the program that affects Stratford which could end up costing Stratford more money if additional items are being put in the trash because they are no longer accepted in the blue boxes.

(c) Webinar Plans – Sammie Orr

Sammie Orr updated the committee that the Climate Momentum group is looking at doing a webinar some time in the New Year regarding green recovery and how to create your own climate action plan. She inquired if this is a project that E&E would like to get involved with or have any suggestions for her. Members were supportive of the project.

7.0 Upcoming Events

No upcoming events reported.

8.0 Next Meeting Date – January 7, 2021 – 4:00 p.m. – Electronically

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Geoff Krauter
THAT the December 3, 2020 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee
meeting adjourn.
Carried.**

Time: 5:40 P.M.