



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on December 2, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., electronically.

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

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Mike Jorna, Emily Chandler, Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

Anna Stratton, Vice-Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Sammie Orr

Seconded by Emily Skelding

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated November 4, 2021, be adopted as printed. Carried

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

Ecological

Vanni Azzano reported that treating of the buckthorn in the TJ Dolan area has been completed for the year. UTRCA will return in the spring to complete the project with no additional cost to E&E to finish it up.

He also reported that the rocks along the south shore of the Avon River require fixing. Some have slumped down into the water. Now that the water is lowered, they will get fixed once everything is frozen.

Councillor Burbach reported that Community Services staff has been adding more wood chips to the paths in TJ Dolan, the paths have been very mushy from flooding. She also mentioned that areas of TJ Dolan have been cleared to make additional trails. Craig Merkley added that bike riders have been making paths throughout the TJ Dolan area and are beginning to kill the underbrush and native fauna. Members discussed possible ways to deter riders from going off the trails.

Anita Jacobsen now present at the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Councillor Burbach noted that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee is currently working on new signage for the TJ Dolan area. Perhaps information requesting visitors stay on the trails could be added to the new signs. Craig Merkley added that any options are worth trying. Anna Stratton suggested that E&E could partner with ATAC in the New Year to explore possible options.

Vanni Azzano addressed the e-mail Mike Sullivan circulated regarding 2 Billion Trees. He reported that proposals were due in by May. Conservation Ontario is working with Forests Ontario on a large proposal as a scoping exercise from the Federal Government. The UTRCA also put in a separate proposal for expanding the Tree Power Program into other communities and expanding the existing program in Stratford. From all the requests for proposals, EnerCan will ask some of those agencies who put proposals out for an RFP for more details.

Vanni Azzano departed the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Carbon Reduction

Emily Skelding reported on their last webinar for 2021, held on November 18, 2021. The webinar was focused on waste, called "The Ins, the Outs and Getting to Zero". Speakers included Kate Simpson who provided an update from the City of Stratford, representatives from the Bluewater Recycling Association and Storm Fisher and Sammie Orr spoke regarding the re-usable container program in the City. There were 60 people in attendance, which was the highest attendance for one of the webinars. The webinar is available for viewing on the City's website.

Sammie Orr inquired what the plan moving forward will be for the chart Anna Stratton has created for future motions that the working group would like to bring forward. Ms. Stratton stated that it is made up of the recommendations that E&E made this year regarding the climate action plan and hopes that the committee can use it as a work plan for the New Year. Emily Skelding added that a lot of their focus this year

has been webinars and community engagement. They do plan as a group to champion more recommendations and actions outside of webinars in the New Year.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sammie Orr reported that the sub-committee is working on what their next main focus will be. A date will be set for their next meeting in the New Year. A recent article was published in the Stratford Times on the reusable container program. If anyone would like to join the ICI group or has any suggestions for projects, please contact Ms. Orr.

Emily Skelding inquired if the ICI group has reached out to Storm Fisher or considered partnering with SDSS on compostables. Sammie Orr stated that compostables does now always mean that the containers can go through the system, which makes the process complicated. The ICI group has contacted local businesses who already use compostable containers and inquired with Storm Fisher if they could actually be composted. Connecting local restaurants with Storm Fisher for guidance on compostables prior to purchasing containers is currently the best option.

Mike Sullivan inquired on the status of the passive housing standard recommendation that the E&E Committee passed earlier this year requesting that it be included in the 2022 budget considerations. Councillor Burbach stated that green development standards that all developments must meet has been researched. However, municipalities are not permitted to give reductions on certain things, as it is seen as bonusing. You can however develop standards and encourage them by adding certain incentives. Councillor Burbach stated that as part of the climate action plan motion, she also included that it has to have the green development standards as part of the overall plan. Mike Sullivan stated that there are some municipalities that have found a way to provide incentives. Councillor Burbach stated that they are not monetary incentives. Mr. Sullivan inquired for example, if reducing the number of parking spaces could be required. Councillor Burbach stated that, that would be covered by a by-law and might be an option for a municipality. Geoff Krauter added that there is a Provincial tax deferral program for municipalities for incorporating standards from the facility accessible design manual in the interior of the units. He feels that if that sort of program could be put in place, you could apply the same principles to green standards. Councillor Henderson has contacted the Director of Infrastructure & Development Standards to inquire about a possible program.

Motion by Sammie Orr

Seconded by Mike Sullivan

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests that the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee request options to develop an incremental tax deferral program to encourage green development in the City of Stratford, be investigated. Carried

5.0 Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Anna Stratton

Anna Stratton reported that ATAC has been working on their work plan, which includes cycling, multi-use trails, pedestrian projects, wayfinding, mapping, their report card, and the integrated transportation plan.

6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Land Acknowledgement Update – Councillor Burbach

A request was made for an update to be provided on the status of the acknowledgement.

b) Update from Council on Climate Action Plan

Councillor Henderson reported that December 14, 2021 is Council's first budget meeting. They will receive their budget binders the week before and she is hoping that the positions will be listed for discussion. Councillor Henderson noted that she and Councillor Burbach have raised the issue at Council that the current Climate Change Coordinator's contract will be ending at the end of December. Sammie Orr inquired if there is anything that the E&E members can do to help ensure that these positions are approved in the budget. Councillor Burbach stated that with the committee already passing a motion to request the positions be added, an effective option would be to encourage people to e-mail Councillors and tell them how important it is to them and that you hope it will be considered.

c) Update from Council on Trow Avenue Development

Mike Sullivan stated that Council has passed the development and hopes Council will ask tough questions during site plan approval. Councillor Burbach noted that a site plan approval process has been put in place that will need to be approved by Council. A future mediation process may take place between the developer and the surrounding residents.

7.0 New Business

a) Update from Avon River Environmental Association (AREA) – C. Merkley

Craig Merkley shared an update from AREA representative, Alan Carr, on the water samples from the Avon River and Lake Victoria. E-Coli results from this fall show levels are below the 100mg/L for the first time in a long time.

b) 5-Year Review of Stratford's Official Plan – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan stated that Stratford will soon need to begin their review of the Official Plan. He suggested that E&E members review the plan and could work on providing feedback and guidance on environmental aspects. He inquired how E&E could be included in the review process. Councillor Burbach stated that the review may begin in early 2022 and suggested that members review the plan and prepare to make a recommendation. She stated that there will also be public consultation.

Anita Jacobsen inquired if the committee is advocating for multi-use purposes in the Official Plan, is there any way to ensure that future developments save green space. Councillor Henderson stated that the plan currently requires developers include 5% green space. Ms. Jacobson stated that the Federal Government is trying to advocate that 17% of the area be protected, with 25% by 2050. Councillor Burbach stated that storm water management should also be an important part of the plan.

Emily Skelding inquired if the newly adopted One Planet Principles will be included in the new 5-year plan. Councillor Burbach stated she hopes that they will be incorporated in the update.

Motion by Mike Sullivan

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests Council formally consult with the E&E Committee on its redesign of the Official Plan. Carried

Committee members inquired if Infrastructure & Development Services staff could be invited to attend the January E&E meeting to discuss the Official Plan.

c) Flood Line Map – Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan circulated an e-mail regarding flood lines based on atmospheric river type events. Craig Merkley will touch base with UTRCA staff regarding a map.

8.0 Upcoming Events

- Festival Hydro Tree Power Event – April 2022

9.0 Date of Next Meeting – January 6, 2022 – 4:00 p.m., electronically

10.0 Adjournment

Motion by Emily Skelding

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the December 2, 2021 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:03 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:24 P.M.