



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on June 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Sharon Collingwood – Vice-Chair Presiding, Craig Merkley, Ken Clarke, Vanni Azzano, Anita Jacobsen, Felicity Sutcliffe, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Geoff Krauter

Staff Present: Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Emily Skelding – Waste Reduction Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Jane Mitchell

Regrets: Ian Morton - Chair, Councillor Larry McCabe

1. Call to Order

Sharon Collingwood, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – May 4, 2023

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Anita Jacobsen

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated May 4, 2023, be adopted as presented. Carried

4. Working Group Updates: Ecological, Carbon Reduction and I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Ecological:

Craig Merkley provided the following updates on projects the Ecological working group is focusing on:

- They are prepping the site for the native grass plantings at T.J. Dolan. The plugs will arrive the week of June 5, 2023. Councillor Burbach suggested they could request Community Services come by and water the area with the water truck to make planting the plugs easier.
- Felicity Sutcliffe planted black-eyed Susan's today in a section along T.J. Dolan.

Motion by Craig Merkley

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT The Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends \$61.02 to purchase compost for the plantings along T.J. Dolan. Carried.

- Anita Jacobsen is organizing weed pulls along the north shore to allow for plantings to get established. She expects they will do at least one more this summer.
- There is a funding opportunity through the Invasive Species Centre with the Invasive Species Action Fund. The deadline for the application is June 7, 2023 and is for \$2,000.00-\$10,000.00. Councillor Burbach will contact the Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery to inform him of the opportunity. Ms. Jacobsen suggested that the funding could be used to develop the City-wide invasive species management plan.
- They have done a walk-through of the Old Grove with UTRCA and ReLeaf to identify some areas to focus on invasive species.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sharon Collingwood provided the following updates on projects the I.C.I. Waste Reduction working group is focusing on:

- The working group will continue to work on a mailing to possibly be included with an upcoming tax statement mail out. Information on the Green Recognition Program could also be included.
- Other promotional ideas for the Green Recognition Program.
- Ongoing plans to join the Plastics Pact.
- Food digester ideas.

Emily Skelding, Waste Reduction Coordinator, stated that they have four large green bins available for use at future events.

Sharon Collingwood met with representatives at the Local to discuss food waste apps and also discussed closed loop systems as an option. The working group would like to possibly tour the Stratford Landfill site to see their composting practices. Emily Skelding, Waste Reduction Coordinator, will inquire about setting up a tour for them.

Sharon Collingwood shared information regarding a climate change seminar.

Carbon Reduction

Sharon Collingwood provided the following updates on projects the Carbon Reduction working group is focusing on:

- the working group would like the opportunity to be a part of the Official Plan consultation, preferably early on in the process.
- The working group would like direction on the review of the secondary plans and if the citizen group does a review, would staff take it into consideration. Councillor Burbach noted that a new Director of Planning will be hired and this type of review will fall under their purview.

Sharon Collingwood inquired about holding a general seminar regarding a retrofit program and how you go about retrofitting your house. She received a quote from Passive House Canada that was much higher than this committee would fund. Perth County Hub is going to fund an upcoming seminar that members can attend.

Sharon Collingwood spoke with David Suzuki at a meeting she recently attended. At the meeting they discussed a summer project of creating a listing of resources for people who would like to retrofit their homes. However, the City cannot endorse businesses or contractors on their website. They will recommend this project to another local group to take on.

5. Climate Change Programs Manager's Update – Sadaf Ghalib

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, provided the following updates:

- the online and in-person public engagement process for the Community Emissions Action Plan has now ended;
- the next step will be to identify priority action areas from the engagement process and consider these actions for modelling and inclusion within the plan itself;
- a technical analysis, including a short list of low-carbon actions that will be developed for future scenario modelling for 2030, 2040 and 2050, will be completed;
- a final scenario modelling and its actions will also be developed into a draft plan that will be presented to Council for approval;
- it is estimated the final scenario modelling will be completed by the end of 2023 or early 2024;
- the Climate Change management report was shared with all Committee members, dated December 12, 2022;
- all information relating to the City's climate change actions are found in this report and it is available for viewing on the regular Council agenda package from December 12, 2022; and

- In addition to the update provided monthly at E&E meetings, the Director of Infrastructure & Development Services also provides a department update at every Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting;
- Sub-committee meetings are open to the public and are held the last Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. and are also streamed online.

6. Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) – Felicity Sutcliffe

Felicity Sutcliffe provided the following update:

- ATAC is working on getting two additional bike racks for behind City Hall;
- there is going to be a bike event on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Upper Queen's Park and there will be lots of activities and groups involved;
- the adult bike ride begins at 9:30 a.m. and the bike parade for kids will be ongoing throughout the morning during the bike event;
- they have created a list of sidewalk gaps in the City and will share the list with the Accessibility Advisory Committee at an upcoming meeting; and
- Inspector Clarke attended the meeting and discussed safety, enforcement, collision statistics, bike lanes and e-scooters.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

7.1 Purchase of Large Green Bins for ICI Sector – Emily Skelding

Emily Skelding, Waste Reduction Coordinator, reported that 60 large green bins have been purchased to service business in the ICI sector. Staff will be distributing the bins to the organic-heavy businesses in the next few weeks. She has confirmed that the contractor will be able to lift these bins into the truck. Each business is being offered one large bin to start. Councillor Burbach inquired if there was any additional funding to help expand the program that E&E could assist with. Ms. Skelding will report back if there is any assistance that E&E can provide.

Businesses can turn in their small green bins once they receive a large one and the City will wash and re-distribute them if someone needs a replacement one due to damage during collection for example.

In the fall, Ms. Skelding will look into the logistics of offering large green bins for multi-residential units.

7.2 Stratford Skate Park – Low-Impact Development Project – Vanni Azzano

Vanni Azzano reported that the LID project at the skate park is now complete. Last week, SDSS students planted two large rain gardens, one small rain garden

within the track and graded by the tennis courts to bring the water down into a low spot. There are approximately 125 square meters in total of rain gardens now. The funding for this project was provided by the E&E Committee, the Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee and the Ministry of Environment. Community Services staff will be maintaining the new rain gardens.

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Upcoming Events

- ATAC Bike Event (Upper Queen's Park) – June 3, 2023
- 2024 Pride Events

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the E&E Committee will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the June 1, 2023, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:04 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:13 P.M.