



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on September 7, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Tim Taylor Lounge at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

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

Staff Present: Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Emily Skelding – Supervisor of Waste Operations, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Ian Morton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – June 1, 2023

Motion by Geoff Krauter

Seconded by Ken Clarke

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated June 1, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

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

Ecological:

Craig Merkley provided the following report from the Ecological Working Group:

- Anita Jacobsen has been leading the project with the assistance from volunteers and City of Stratford summer students, weeding the north shore of the Avon River at the crib walls. The work has made a big difference in the shoreline and made room for the native plants to continue to grow. They will leave the weeding now for this year and continue in the spring.
- Native grass plantings along the TJ Dolan boulevard (between the railroad tracks and Centre Street) have been completed. Approximately 200 big blue stem and little blue stem blue plugs were planted and are growing well. They would like to investigate the cost of adding signage to this area in 2024.
- E&E received funding to knock out the phragmites in the Old Grove area in August. They also worked on eradicating the knotweed in June/July. They are considering working on the buckthorn this fall, as it will be easier to see once the leaves fall. The invasive species work will need to continue in 2024 to keep on top of the spread throughout the dense area. They continue to support the creation of a master plan to control invasive species. The working group had previously submitted a recommendation for staff to consider a master plan for invasive plant management and were asked for further details. Councillor Burbach reviewed the specific details she will submit to staff regarding the original request. Councillor Burbach will share the document with members via e-mail.
- Turtles have been released back into the river. There were over 100 turtles released. A resident of John Street has suggested that turtle crossing signs could be installed, as they have previously witnessed many turtles being run over. Mr. Merkley will investigate options for this request.
- Members are continuing to work on previous issues in TJ Dolan, such as side trail spread, invasive periwinkle and teepees being erected by using fallen wood which aids in decomposition and soil heath. He has been notified that there may be a rare American Chestnut tree in TJ Dolan. The Chestnut Council of Ontario is investigating if it is a pure American Chestnut.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction:

Sharon Collingwood provided the following update from the I.C.I Waste Reduction Working Group:

- The working group visited the Stratford Landfill site for a tour with Emily Skelding, Supervisor of Waste Operations, to learn more about their composting program. The group was very impressed with their processes.
- The working group is continuing to review the plastics pact, as it is a work in progress.

Carbon Reduction

Sharon Collingwood provided the following update from the Carbon Reduction Working Group:

- E&E members received an updated copy of the carbon reduction working group's proposal for motions for actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This is a document that previous E&E members have worked to put together in 2021. The working group would like to know if E&E members would like to continue working on this document moving forward. Vanni Azzano suggested that this document may be replaced by recent work, such as the community feedback on the Community Emissions Action Plan and the work the Climate Change Programs Manager has been preparing. Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, reported that she has reviewed the document regarding the proposal of motions, as she has followed a similar approach, most of the actions and strategies in the previous document are now included in the Climate Action Plan based on community feedback and feasibility for Stratford as a community. They will be developed in the form of a proposed plan and will be presented to Council in early 2024.
- The working group would like further guidance with regard to strategy and the prioritization of the Climate Plan moving forward with recommendations and setting goals to provide valuable input and support to the Climate Change Programs Manager.

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

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

- The second round of the public engagement process for the Community Emissions Action Plan has now concluded. They identified a list of strategies and actions, as outlined on the "What we Heard" page, available on the Engage Stratford website. Staff sent e-mails to various citizen groups, businesses, industry and the public, as well as through various social media channels in order to gather a range of feedback that would form the next phase of development. Staff will perform a technical analysis of City wide energy and emissions, as well as creating an accurate baseline for the purpose of tracking and reporting yearly. They have recently started this data collection exercise for the baseline model for emissions. It is expected that the first iteration of modelling will be complete by the end of October 2023. After which, staff can use all the feedback that was collected and develop a draft plan for Council's consideration in early 2024. The Manager also anticipates actionable strategies will be incorporated within the draft plan. Once the draft plan is complete, it will be open for an additional round of public consultation, including the E&E Committee as an important stakeholder. This public feedback may be online or it may be an in-person engagement.
- Staff has developed a fulsome strategy for the Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan to advance efforts towards corporate generated emissions. The report is expected to be presented to the Infrastructure, Transportation, and Safety Subcommittee later in September. Based on this timeline, staff expects the management report and the plan to be brought to Council in October 2023. Several implementation strategies that are recommended in the plan are already underway, such as integrating a climate lens into decision making for City-led projects, as well as plans. Most recently, the Transportation Master Plan was reviewed through this lens, and it is expected this same process will occur for the Official Plan Review. The plan has been developed by staff as a guiding document to ensure that the City is on track in reaching its collective climate action objectives. The Manager anticipates there to be public monitoring, as well as annual reporting of corporate emissions starting from 2022. As staff is still creating the reporting process, she expects there will be changes as they streamline and refine outputs. She expects to have a process in place by the end of the year.

- Energy reporting to the province under Ontario Regulation 25/23 is now complete. This is a regulatory requirement for all public sector organizations, including municipalities, to report on all energy usage including buildings, facilities and operations and have management plans in place. This requirement has now been completed for 2019-2024. A copy of the plan is available on the City's climate change web page for viewing.

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

Felicity Sutcliffe provided the following update:

- ATAC has been encouraging members and the public to visit the Engage Stratford website to participate in the Transportation Master Plan review and provide feedback by September 17, 2023.
- ATAC prepared a proposal to have red light cameras installed at problem intersections. The proposal was approved by the Finance and Labour Relations Committee and will move on to 2024 budget deliberations.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None noted.

8. New Business

8.1 Update on Plastics Pact – Sharon Collingwood

Update provided as part of Item 4. I.C.I. Waste Reduction Working Group report.

8.2 One Planet Living Implementation – Sharon Collingwood

Sharon Collingwood shared ideas with members on how the One Planet Living approach could be more successful in Stratford, with some changes to its implementation by staff.

The Community Hub Campaign Planning Study of May 23, 2023 offers an example for the successful application of OPL principles. This report describes the initial stages of the Community Hub Fundraising project and agrees that the project aligns with the first three principles of OPL:

- (1) health and happiness,
- (2) equity and local economy, and
- (3) culture and community.

Had the report considered principles 4-10 as well, there might have been an opportunity for some creative thinking and be mindful about the environment. Principles such as sustainable water and food, travel and transport, materials and products, zero waste and zero carbon energy. Encouraging staff to prepare reports and apply all ten principles the way the One Planet organization meant them to be used would be beneficial.

Councillor Burbach and Councillor McCabe noted that staff has been asked to use all principles that are applicable to the projects and feels that staff are using all the principles as a lens. Emily Skelding, Supervisor of Waste Operations, explained that as an example, if she were drafting a report for a contract renewal, she would look at all the principles available and use the ones that are relevant to a contract renewal. They use them as a way of supporting the report and in some instances many of the principles do not apply. Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, added that if there is a building project being brought to Council for consideration, buildings may not necessarily apply to all ten principles. It would be more relevant for energy, water, waste, etc. Not all projects will have all ten principles embedded and that would depend on the project. Staff reviews all 10 principles for each management report and deletes what is not applicable to the report and strategic priorities.

Members noted the importance to trust staff and their decisions. It is a lot of work for staff to review the ten principles and apply them to each project, when it is likely that only a few may be applicable. Councillor Burbach stated that she appreciates that staff only includes in their report the principles that are applicable, as it is a tremendous amount of paperwork to read and review.

Motion by Sharon Collingwood

Seconded by Geoff Krauter

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Stratford Council that staff demonstrate consideration of all ten principles in the One Planet Living document when submitting reports and presentations.

Defeated

8.3 2024 E&E Budget Request – Ian Morton

Motion by Vanni Azzano

Seconded by Councillor Larry McCabe

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee requests a 2024 budgetary figure of \$17,500.00 from the City of Stratford as follows:

- **Native Grass Plantings: \$2,500.00**
- **Community Projects & Initiatives – TJ Dolan, Boardwalks (materials, construction, placement): \$5,000.00**
- **Shoreline & Naturalization Projects – plantings, invasive species removal, consultant, maintenance, etc.: \$10,000.00**

Carried

Councillor Burbach left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

8.4 Reminder of Upcoming Membership Terms Ending on November 30, 2023

Staff reminded members whose terms will be ending on November 30, 2023 that they will be required to re-apply. Staff will inform members of the deadline to re-apply once it has been determined.

Sharon Collingwood stated that the E&E Committee currently has one citizen position vacant and would like to request staff fill that position with someone who has been placed on the name bank of people who initially did not get appointed to committees. There is currently a student who is interested in filling the youth representative position. Staff has been contacted and directed them to the website to submit an application.

Motion by Sharon Collingwood

Seconded by Ken Clarke

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee recommends Stratford Council fill the mid-term vacant position on the E&E Committee from the existing name bank list. Carried

Felicity Sutcliffe left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

8.5 Update on the Official Plan Review – Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, reported that there is a statutory public meeting scheduled during a special meeting of City Council for

late October regarding the Official Plan Review. At the meeting it would be an opportunity for both Council and the public to consider preliminary information from the City's Planning staff, but primarily from the third party planning consultant that Council has retained to complete the review. Notice for this public meeting will be issued shortly. All members of the public, stakeholders and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to participate in this meeting. She has let the Interim Manager of Planning know that the E&E Committee is interested in participating in the review process.

9. Upcoming Events

- Stratford End Fossil Fuels March – March 17, 2023
- 2024 Pride Events

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the E&E Committee will be held on Thursday, October 5, 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 September 7, 2023, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:58 P.M.