

**Present:** M. Christine Castle, Chair  
Erica Gale  
Gayle Giesbrecht  
Laurie Kuchirka, Vice-Chair  
Melanie Maloney  
Patti Mavins, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative  
Judy Rivers

**Also Present:** Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate  
Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change  
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator  
(Recording Secretary)

**Regrets:** Beatrice Adesemowo  
Timothy Eric  
Miranda Pautler

---

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - January 6, 2021

A correction was made to the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes as follows:

- the 'Port Whitby Study' be changed to the 'Port Whitby Sustainability Plan' under Item 4.1.

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of January 6, 2021 be approved, as amended.

**Carried**

3. Presentations

**3.1** Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, Town of Whitby  
Re: Advisory Committee Orientation Refresh

Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Advisory Committee Policies and Procedures. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the responsibilities of staff, Mayor's Designate, Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of advisory committees;
- meeting etiquette, decorum and rules of debate;
- procedures for motions; and,
- rules related to presentations and delegations.

4. Delegations

**4.1** There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

**5.1** Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

Jade Schofield provided an overview regarding the process for preparing and submitting the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report.

**5.2** Climate Change and the Natural Environment Speaker Series

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Climate Change and Natural Environment Speaker Series, which included:

- confirmed speakers for April and June (Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority and Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests);
- contacting Willow Tree Farms as an alternative March speaker;
- contacting the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters as an alternative May speaker; and,
- hosting the Speaker Series on Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether a date has been confirmed for the April and June speakers;
- how the event would be advertised and what Members can do to assist with advertising the Speaker Series; and,
- whether there would be a real time translation of the Speaker Series.

### **5.3 Active Transportation Plan Consultation: Committee Response**

M. Christine Castle requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

Discussion ensued regarding:

- defining 'education to shift culture' and what that would entail;
- considering how the ATP impacts climate change; and,
- providing individual responses to staff on the ATP.

### **5.4 Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan: Committee Response**

M. Christine Castle requested feedback from the Committee regarding Members' research on benchmarks from other municipalities and how they have created sustainable downtowns.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- incorporating green roofs and living walls on business and government buildings;
- going fossil free by 2050;
- creating super cycle pathways similar to Copenhagen's in Denmark;
- the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) pilot and how that will impact the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan;
- maintaining the 'cultural feel' in the downtown with the Metrolinx BRT;
- requesting additional information regarding how traffic would be diverted during the construction of the Metrolinx BRT;
- requesting Metrolinx to provide a presentation from a sustainability perspective on the BRT; and,
- the Committee preparing a draft motion regarding their response to the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan for the next meeting.

### **5.5 ReCollect Waste Sorting Game Update**

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the ReCollect Waste Sorting Game.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether ReCollect had included the Committee's recommended changes in the final product.

**5.6** Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Program Report

Jade Schofield provided updates regarding the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) tree planting program which included:

- the number of Whitby residents who had participated in the program in 2020;
- the top three methods for promoting the program such as Facebook, the Town's website, and the community newsletter;
- the top three reasons for participating in the program such as helping the environment, increasing shaded area, and improving aesthetics; and,
- the number in residents who would not have planted a tree/shrub without the LEAF program.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding why the Town of Whitby had the greatest uptake of the program.

**5.7** Earth Hour 2021

M. Christine Castle requested information regarding the Town's plans for Earth Hour 2021.

Jade Schofield advised that Earth Hour would be promoted online and that the Committee could provide suggestions for virtual activities.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a call to action social media campaign requesting residents to turn off their lights for an hour;
- engaging kids to create posters for windows and chalk drawings on driveways; and,
- submitting a proclamation request for Earth Hour.

**5.8** Earth Day 2021

Jade Schofield advised that Earth Day 2021 would be a media campaign and requested suggestions from the Committee regarding Earth Day activities.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- creating a sign-up form for families to volunteer to clean up specific areas that could be pinned on a virtual map;
- a 'controlled' group tree planting event for Advisory Committee Members;
- submitting a proclamation request for Earth Day; and,
- arranging a garbage pick-up at one location for families to drop off garbage collected on Earth Day.

**5.9** Whitby in Bloom Committee Update

Patti Mavins provided updates regarding the Whitby in Bloom Committee which included:

- the confirmed dates for the Whitby in Bloom Speaker Series;
- an overview of an Education Series for new home owners and people new to gardening; and,
- the Whitby in Bloom 2021 Garden Tour.

**6.** Correspondence

**6.1** There was no correspondence.

**7.** Council Update

**7.1** Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- a budget target of .55 percent on the overall tax bill had been set, but that the budget had not been finalized;
- the status of the Whitby Hospice Residence;
- the Region's plan for developing more affordable housing in the area to meet the need for such housing;
- the naming of a new park in West Whitby; and,
- an update on the Whitby Master Fire Plan.

**8.** Other Business

**8.1** There was no other business.

**9.** Next Meeting

**9.1** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

**10.** Adjournment

**10.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Erica Gale

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

**Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on March 3, 2021.**