

Present: M. Christine Castle, Vice Chair
Robynne Dunn
Erica Gale
Gayle Giesbrecht
Laurie Kuchirka
Luis Licsi
Miranda Pautler, Chair
Robert Toyama, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change
Jodi Janwin, Staff Liaison, Energy and Sustainability Programs
Coordinator
Laura MacDougall, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Beatrice Adesemowo
Timothy Eric
Melanie Maloney
Judy Rivers

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

- 1.1** Miranda Pautler made a declaration of a potential conflict of interest regarding Item 5.3, Changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, as her employer is the regulator for the proposed legislation. Ms. Pautler did not take part in the discussion or voting on this matter.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - November 4, 2020

A correction was made to the Whitby Sustainability Minutes of November 4, 2020 as follows:

- the word 'pecuniary' be deleted and replaced with the word 'potential' under Item 1.1.

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of November 4, 2020, as amended, be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 There were no presentations.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Update on ReCollect Waste Sorting Game

Miranda Pautler provided a brief overview of the presentation on the Waste Sorting Game by ReCollect and the motion made by the Committee to support the purchase of the Waste Sorting Game for use by Town Staff.

Jodi Janwin provided an update on the status of the Waste Sorting Game including the review and approval of the agreement by the IT and Legal Services Divisions, placing the order and moving forward with the customization of the App.

A brief question and answer period between the Members of the Committee and Staff regarding:

- the timeline for the review/approval of the agreement, the order being placed and the customization of the application; and,
- whether the Committee would receive a presentation/demonstration.

5.2 Speaker Series Framework

Laurie Kuchirka, representing the subcommittee for the speaker series, provided details on the proposed speaker series including:

- the suggested title, theme, topics, and targeted demographics;
- the framework and platform that would be used to provide the series;
- the anticipated outcome of the speaker series;
- the number and length of the presentations including a question and answer period;
- the potential day of the week for each session, and the timeframe for the series from January to April 2021 with the timing of the final session to coincide with Earth Hour; and,
- culminating actions that could be implemented; and,
- the possibility of drawing a prize at the final session from the attendees of the entire series;

Discussion ensued between the Members of Committee regarding:

- how the speaker series would be marketed/promoted for community awareness and registration purposes;
- the possibility of promoting the speaker series through social media;
- the number of sessions versus the number of topics and how and when the introduction and final session would be managed;
- the timing of each session to coincide with the topic;
- the support that may be required by Members of the Committee including promoting and attending the series;
- ensuring that the timing of the speaker series would not conflict with any other webinars such as the Whitby in Bloom speaker series/webinars;
- the approximate cost per speaker, the total cost associated with the series, and whether such expenses would be covered through the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's budget;
- the interaction/engagement and implementation of action items by participants of the series;
- whether video taping the sessions would require the permission of participants; and,
- the role of the Committee as an advisory group, and the responsibility of Staff to secure the speakers.

It was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the Speaker Series as discussed at this meeting.

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Miranda Pautler vacated the Chair for this portion of the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or vote on Item 5.3.

M. Christine Castle assumed the Chair.

5.3 Changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27

M. Christine Castle advised that information regarding the proposed changes to the Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act - Schedule 6 was distributed to Members of the Committee via email. She advised that the intention of the Committee was to encourage Council to respond to the proposed changes, noting that Whitby Council had already considered the matter and had sent correspondence in support of CLOCA's request to remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229.

Jade Schofield provided background information on the proposed changes to the Act, specifically Schedule 6, related to the acting bodies that can sit on the board of a conservation authority. She advised that the proposed changes recommend that the board be comprised of elected officials. She advised of further proposed changes with respect to the development application process, noting that under the proposed changes, appeals to a development application would be considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as opposed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. Ms. Schofield advised that comments on Bill 229 were to be submitted by 7:00 p.m. on December 2, 2020

Councillor Yamada provided detailed information regarding:

- the consideration of Bill 229 Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act, by Regional Council and the various recommendations adopted by Regional Council at its meeting held on November 25, 2020; and,
- the consideration Bill 229 by Whitby Council at its meeting held on November 23, 2020 and the recommendation adopted by Whitby Council to endorse and support the request of CLOCA's Board of Directors to remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229.

Councillor Yamada advised that he would send the Region's Staff report to the staff liaison to share with Members of the Committee.

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

1. That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee supports the recommendations regarding Schedule 6 of Bill 229 adopted by the Region of Durham and Whitby Council; and,
2. That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee continues to provide support and input when such opportunities arise.

Carried

Miranda Pautler resumed the Chair.

5.4 Community Services Update

There were no Community Services updates.

5.5 Whitby in Bloom Update

Bob Toyama provided updates regarding:

- confirmation of the speakers for the Whitby in Bloom Speaker Series for 2021; and,
- the Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates resulting from the November 30, 2020 Council meeting regarding:

- details about the delegation by the Congress of Black Women Whitby/Oshawa Chapter and their requests for anti-black racism training for Town Staff and Members of Council and the formation of a subcommittee of the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for this purpose;
- the launch of the Anti-Black Racism Task Force by the Region of Durham;
- the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment Application for 1578 Victoria Street East;
- the Sign By-law Variance to Permanent Sign By-law for A&W located at 1208 Dundas Street East;
- details about the Taunton Gardens Pedestrian Improvements at 304, 308, 368, 372, 374 and 378 Taunton Road East;
- the presentation from Ipsos Public Affairs regarding the 2020 Community Survey results and details about the results of the survey;
- the Whitby Civic Centre Project;
- the proposed amendment to the property standards by-law related to vacant, unused, or unoccupied buildings; and,
- the Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether an environmental study would be undertaken at the Victoria Street site and whether the Whitby Green Standards would be applied to the proposed development; and,
- whether training related to anti-black racism would take place at the regional and/or municipal level.

8. Other Business

8.1 Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project

Miranda Pautler advised that all Whitby advisory committees received an invitation to attend a virtual information session on the Metrolinx Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project scheduled to take place on December 3, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Facebook. She inquired whether any Members of the Committee were interested in the information and whether and Members of the Committee would be attending.

Discussion ensued between Members of the Committee regarding:

- the virtual information session being recorded for those unable to attend;
- opportunities to take part in consultation and provide feedback online through Metrolinx's website at <https://www.metrolinxengage.com/en/content/whitby>;
- including any items of interest at the information session for discussion at the Committee meeting in January 2021.

8.2 Active Transportation - Final Draft

Jodi Janwin advised that the Active Transportation Plan - Final Draft would be considered at the December 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting. She further advised there would be an opportunity for the Committee to review and comment on the plan for a period of 30 days should the plan be adopted by Council at its meeting on December 14, 2020. Ms. Janwin noted that the plan could be reviewed through the Town's website at <https://www.whitby.ca/en/townhall/active-transportation-plan-study.asp>.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether there would be an opportunity for the Committee to provide comments;
- when the 30-day commenting period would begin; and,
- the timeline for commenting versus the next scheduled Committee meeting and how the Committee would provide feedback.

8.3 Whitby Green Standards

M. Christine Castle inquired about the status of the Whitby Green Standards.

Jade Schofield advised that she had provided a presentation on climate change at the Durham Region round table meeting, and that she would be making a presentation at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting at the Region on the standards adopted by Whitby Council. She advised of the recommendation by the Regional Council to consider encouraging all municipalities within the Region of Durham to adopt the same or similar standards. She stated that discussions have taken place about the Region using the Whitby Green Standards for its corporate building standards. Ms. Schofield further advised that the standards were being applied to all development applications, and that staff would be developing an incentive program with respect to the standards to encourage developers to go above and beyond mandatory standards.

8.4 Climate Change Plan

M. Christine Castle inquired about the status of the Climate Change Plan.

Jade Schofield advised that she was working on the Terms of Reference to secure consultants for the adaptation phase of the Climate Change Plan. She stated that the development of a Climate Mitigation Plan would take place in 2021 which would focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Schofield advised that Jodi Janwin was currently working on the corporate greenhouse gas reduction and energy conservation framework.

Jade Schofield advised that she was working on the Terms of Reference to secure consultants to conduct a feasibility study for a net zero district energy facility in the area of the proposed North Whitby Sports Complex. She advised that the district energy system could potentially support the North Whitby Sports Complex and all development around the area. Ms. Schofield stated that not only would the district energy system be a leading edge low carbon innovation, but that it would be a method of attracting and retaining high end commercial entities.

8.5 Corporate Energy Plan

M. Christine Castle inquired about the status of the Corporate Energy Plan

Jodi Janwin provided a detailed update regarding:

- the level three audits to be conducted at five (5) Town facilities;
- the completion of level two audits on 20 buildings, and the recommendations as a result of the audits;
- incorporating measures and recommendations into the Corporate Energy and Emissions Management Plan;
- the possibility of creating a carbon budget for Town facilities and creating targets that would be achievable and that could be reported on;
- the engagement of staff through the creation of a Corporate Energy Team for discussion and implementation of emission reductions in the Town's fleet and facilities and to assist in gathering information about where energy and emissions were coming from; and,
- the Request for Proposal for energy management software to obtain and analyze data from Town facilities.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether the most recent corporate energy report was for 2017/2018 and whether another report would be forthcoming.

8.6 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

Jade Schofield provided a detailed update on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program regarding:

- applications submitted by the Town for funding to install electric vehicle charging stations at various locations;
- the process for procuring and installing the stations;
- the Region of Durham's application for funding to host and run an electric vehicle education program in partnership with local municipalities, developing a website highlighting the locations of the charging stations in the region and frequently asked questions about electric vehicles;
- the possibility of members of the community test driving electric vehicles pending COVID-19 restrictions; and
- providing an update in January 2021.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether there was financial support from the Town for private retrofits for electric vehicle charging.

8.7 Tree City of the World

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding:

- the future submission of an application for Whitby to be awarded the tree city of the world designation for 2020;

- The Town's tree planting initiatives that were undertaken in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic; and,
- the current process underway for a Request for Proposal for an Urban Forest Management Plan for anticipated completion in 2021.

8.8 Committee Members Absenteeism

Miranda Pautler inquired about the process for Members of the Committee that have been absent from a number of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meetings, and determining whether those individuals were still interested in sitting on the Committee.

Jodi Janwin advised that ongoing correspondence is sent to Members of the Committee that have not met the meeting attendance requirements to remind them of attendance requirements and to determine their interest to continue as a Member of the Committee.

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
To be determined/confirmed

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Bob Toyama

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on January 6, 2021.