



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

March 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Wenda Abel
Sara Best, Vice-Chair
Janet Dignem
Anahita Jami
Brian Kelly
Patti Mavins
Catherine Philogene
Alytta Teuber
Bryan Widner, Chair

Regrets: Andrea Cecchetto
Robynne Dunn
Judy Rivers

Also Present: Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy and Sustainability
Program Coordinator
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order
2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Sara Best requested that the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of February 1, 2023 be amended to reflect that Brian Kelly nominated Sara Best as Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 term, and that the motion to appoint Sara Best was carried.

Recommendation:

Moved by Wenda Abel

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of February 1, 2023, as amended, be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Region of Durham

Re: Durham Greener Homes Program

Ian McVey provided a presentation on the Durham Greener Homes Program. Highlights of the presentation included:

- carbon emissions in Durham Region and Durham's low carbon pathway;
- cost-effective opportunities to reduce emissions in the transportation and residential sector;
- key measures to reduce emissions including increasing the efficiency of new homes, installing heat pumps in existing homes, developing district energy systems, and electrifying personal vehicles;
- programs and services to encourage home energy retrofits, including the Home Energy Coach service and partnering with credit unions to provide loan capital;
- Durham Greener Homes deep retrofit incentives; and,
- program uptake since the launch of the program in April 2022.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether the Region of Durham had discussed alternative energy sources such as the use of biochar instead of coal in facilities such as the St. Mary's Cement plant in Clarington;
- the establishment of regulation requirements regarding carbon outputs for industrial facilities;
- retrofit incentives for homeowners such as long-term cost savings on hydro bills, and installing heat pumps in new homes;

- incentives for new builds to install heat pumps;
- the use of social media campaigns to improve public trust and buy-in by promoting companies the Region has partnered with;
- whether hybrid heating systems were included in the program;
- barriers to developing a certification program for suppliers and contractors;
- whether homeowner testimonials have been included in the marketing strategy to address the issue of trust; and,
- whether there was a retrofit program for Condominium owners.

At the request of the Committee, Brian Kelly provided an overview of updates he's made to his home to improve efficiency, including retrofits, purchasing an electric vehicle, installing a photovoltaic system, and installing a heat pump. Mr. Kelly highlighted the home retrofits that have been completed, costs and rebate opportunities, and future renovations he is planning to further improve his home's efficiency. He mentioned that he was a participant in the Durham Greener Homes Program and found it seamless.

4.2 Alia Tulloch, Transportation Planning Analyst, and Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, Region of Durham

Re: Durham Meadoway Visioning Study

Alia Tulloch provided a presentation regarding the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the area included in the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study;
- connecting the existing Durham Trail Network to other major GTA trails;
- an overview of the study including working with community partners to develop a coordinated vision and guiding principles to support decision making, confirming a functional alignment for a multi-use trail, and creating a destination experience;
- Phase 1, Community Engagement, which focused on the vision for the Durham Meadoway and the guiding principles that would support the vision, route options, and amenities and programming

that could be incorporated into the design or be implemented over time;

- an overview of the 10 study segments and up to 5 Alternate Route segments for each of the Hydro Corridors;
- identifying enhancements and amenities along the multi-use path to make it a tourist destination;
- linking current focal points or destinations such as using the hydro corridor as an expansion opportunity for a future District Park or a connection to planned trails along Lynde Creek; and,
- next steps of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- the timeline for completing the project; and,
- the potential for green power energy sources to be included in the scope of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Sustainability Initiatives

Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Programs

- Community Greening Program
- Backyard Tree Planting

Suprajha Vaithianathan provided an overview of the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) programs, the Backyard Tree Planting Program and the Community Greening Program. Ms. Vaithianathan stated that the Backyard Tree Planting program was sponsored by Elexicon in partnership with the Town and provided subsidized services and education for planting backyard trees and shrubs. She further stated that the Town of Whitby extended a 4 year contract with LEAF for the Community Greening Program. She advised that this program focused on community enhancement of the urban forest to increase the tree canopy. Ms. Vaithianathan advised that Whitby was currently at 17 percent tree canopy coverage.

Catherine Philogene advised that she participated in the Backyard Tree Planting Program and stated that the program was reasonably priced and overall it was a positive experience.

Note: The following items were deferred to the next Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

- Bee City
- Tree Cities of the World
- Seeds to Bees
- Whitby Green Standards
- District Energy System

6.2 2023 Sustainability Events

World Water Day - March 22, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that the Town of Whitby would be running a social media campaign for World Water Day and offering water saving tips.

Earth Hour - March 25, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan stated that Earth Hour would be held on March 25, 2023. Ms. Vaithianathan advised that submeters were installed in Town Hall to collect the energy consumption of the network. She further advised that the submeters allowed individual systems, such as lights, heating, or cooling systems to be measured individually. She stated that the goal was to quantify the savings of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions for each system during Earth Hour.

Earth Week - April 16-23, 2023 and Earth Day - April 22, 2023

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that Earth Week would be celebrated between April 16 to 23, 2023 and Earth Day was on April 22, 2023. Ms. Vaithianathan stated that the Town was collaborating with the Whitby Public Library to host a pop-up Repair Café event on April 15, 2023. She further stated that the Town would also host a Meet the Beekeeper event for kids on April 15, 2023 at Town Hall. She advised that on April 19, 2023 at the Whitby Public Library, a free movie screening of the documentary Kiss the Ground would be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ms. Vaithianathan requested volunteers to participate in a discussion panel at

the movie screening. She advised that on April 22, 2023, the Town was hosting a tree planting event in partnership with LEAF.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding how the areas of the Town or the groups participating in the Community Greening Program were selected.

Note: The following items were deferred to the next Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

- The Provincial Day of Action on Litter - May 9, 2023
- World Environment Day - June 5, 2023
- Pollinator Week - June 19-25, 2023
- National Forest Week - September 17-23, 2023
- Energy Efficiency Day - October 4, 2023
- Waste Reduction Week - October 16-22, 2023

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Council Update

There was no Council update.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Catherine Philogene

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on April 5, 2023.