



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

January 3, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Wenda Abel
Sara Best, Vice-Chair
Andrea Cecchetto
Patti Mavins
Catherine Philogene
Bryan Widner, Chair
Bob Willard
Zartasha Zainab

Regrets: Janet Dignem
Anahita Jami
Brian Kelly

Also Present: Councillor Leahy, Mayor's Designate
Junaid Khan, Staff Liaison, Project Manager, Sustainability and
Climate Change
Kristin Palilionis, Staff Liaison, Climate Change Coordinator
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator

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1. Call to Order
 2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 term would take place at this time.

Heather Ellis called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Catherine Philogene nominated Bryan Widner for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Bryan Widner accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Bryan Widner called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Wenda Abel nominated Sara Best for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Sara Best accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved by Catherine Philogene

That Bryan Widner be appointed Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2024.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved by Wenda Abel

That Sara Best be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2024.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Catherine Philogene

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of December 6, 2023 be approved.

Carried

5. Presentations

5.1 Catherine Philogene, Member, Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee

Re: Overview of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) and Key Takeaways for Municipalities

Catherine Philogene provided a presentation regarding the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) and Key Takeaways for Municipalities. Highlights of the presentation included:

- a brief summary of the Paris Agreement of 2015, COP21, a legally binding global climate change treaty;
- a summary of two main results from COP28, a global stocktake that provides data for governments and key outcomes across 4 Pillars; and,
- details about the 4 Pillars, being Pillar 1 - fast tracking a just, orderly and equitable energy transition, Pillar 2 - fixing climate finance, Pillar 3 - focusing on people, lives and livelihoods, and Pillar 4 - underpinning everything with full inclusivity.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- recommendations to Council regarding actions to implement;
- details of Pillar 2, including clarification regarding regulations setting the scope of climate finance;
- considering the impact of technology on finance and housing;
- inviting MP Turnbull to a Committee meeting to provide insight into government regulations; and,
- integrating Pillars 3 and 4 into the Committee's work plan.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. General Business and Reports

7.1 Climate Emergency Response Plan

Kristin Palilionis provided an overview of the action items for 2024.

Highlights of the overview included:

- a community wide communication strategy based on results of Phase 1;

- a sustainable neighbourhood action plan (SNAP);
- selecting a neighbourhood to implement a blue-green infrastructure pilot project;
- a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for both residential and commercial properties and looking into funding opportunities;
- working with other municipalities within Durham Region to implement incentive programs based on the Whitby Green Standard Program;
- upgrading the minimum Whitby Green Standard -Tier 2 performance measures required by the applicant to demonstrate compliance; and,
- completing a study to determine the best areas for a heat and waste-water recovery system.

A brief answer and question period ensued regarding future plans pertaining to blue-green infrastructure within the Town.

7.2 Whitby Green Standard Update

Kristin Palilionis advised that the Whitby Green Standard Demo Project to demonstrate the costs and benefits of implementing the three different tiers was no longer proceeding.

7.3 Whitby's Official Tree

Kristin Palilionis advised that the Town would announce its official tree on March 21, 2024, on the United Nations International Day of Forests. Ms. Palilionis stated that the official tree planting at Town Hall was tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2024, at 10:30 am. She further stated that Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) has been asked to attend and provide an education session. Ms. Palilionis requested that Members of the Committee attend the tree planting.

7.4 2024 Budget

Kristin Palilionis advised that the Committee's budget for 2024 was \$2,500.00.

7.5 Presentations for 2024

Kristin Palilionis requested feedback from the Committee regarding presentations for 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- inviting a representative from MP Turnbull's Office;
- an update from the Region of Durham staff on their 2024 projects;
- inviting local community groups to provide alternative perspectives on sustainability;
- Committee Members providing presentations, including Blue-Green Infrastructure (Bryan Widner), Climate Finance (Catherine Philogene), and Food Inflation (Zartasha Zainab); and,
- the impact of wildfires in Canada.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Council Update

Regional Councillor Leahy provided an update regarding:

- 2024 Budget discussions; and,
- the progress on the Whitby Sports Complex.

10. Other Business

10.1 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Annual Report

Kristin Palilionis provided an update regarding the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's Annual Report and Work Plan. Ms. Palilionis provided an overview of changes made to the work plan and requested feedback from the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Community Greening Program and Greenspace;
- providing advice and support to Council;
- sustainable transportation;
- education and awareness about local food;
- climate change and extreme weather;

- Zero Carbon Whitby; and,
- support to Council regarding water quality and storm water management.

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Sara Best

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on February 7, 2024.