



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Present: Sara Best, Vice-Chair
Andrea Cecchetto
Janet Dignem
Anahita Jami
Brian Kelly
Patti Mavins
Catherine Philogene
Judy Rivers
Alytta Teuber
Bryan Widner, Chair

Regrets: Wenda Abel
Robynne Dunn

Also Present: Councillor Lundquist, Mayor's Designate
Sarah Shields, Staff Liaison, Project Manager, Sustainability and
Climate Change
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy and Sustainability
Program Coordinator
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording
Secretary)

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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, 2023 to December 31, 2023 term would take place at this time.

Sarah Shields called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Patti Mavins 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.

Sarah Shields called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Brian Kelly 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 Patti Mavins

That Bryan Widner be appointed Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2023.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved by Brian Kelly

That Sara Best be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2023.

Carried

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Brian Kelly did not declare any conflicts of interest regarding any items appearing on the meeting agenda, but advised the Committee that he may have potential future conflicts of interest related to certain matters considered by the Committee, noting that he is related to a Town of Whitby employee, volunteers to support the Member of Parliament for Whitby, and developed a number of Regional policies during his employment with the Region of Durham.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee - June 1, 2022

Recommendation:

Moved by Patti Mavins

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of June 1, 2022 be approved.

Carried

5. Presentations

5.1 Sarah Shields, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change

Re: Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) Phase 2

Sarah Shields provided a presentation regarding the Climate Emergency Response Plan (CERP). Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of Phase 2 of the CERP, which focuses on Climate Mitigation;
- guiding principles for climate planning such as establishing clear actions, aligning with federal and provincial policies, metrics to monitor and justify investment, equitable transitions to sustainability, and maximizing co-benefits and minimizing harms;
- analyzing the benefits and harms of the plan through energy use and emissions forecasting using two scenarios, being (1) business as usual and (2) business as planned;
- an overview of the low carbon scenario plan, including changes required to meet the targets, and strategies for implementation; and,
- next steps of the CERP.

5.2 Suprajha Vaithianathan, Energy and Sustainability Programs Coordinator

Re: Zero Carbon Whitby Plan

Suprajha Vaithianathan provided a presentation regarding the Zero Carbon Whitby Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Whitby's Corporate plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- corporate target trajectory to achieve net zero by 2045;

- the principles and objectives including implementing a framework to manage GHG emissions, aligning operating and capital budgeting, processes, decision and priorities with the climate emergency, highlighting trade-offs and synergies for financial and GHG decisions, tracking actions and policies in the context of the climate emergency, enabling transparent reporting, and building carbon literacy in the organization and within the community;
- key results of the costing study to implement the Zero Carbon Whitby plan including reducing emissions by 75 percent by 2045 with options to reach 100 percent, reducing total energy used by 63 percent by 2045, investing \$63.7 million with a return of \$75.3 million savings and avoided costs; and,
- a one-time funding request of \$721,080 to complete Zero Carbon Projects identified in 2023.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- whether the one-time funding request was included in the 2023 Budget;
- a presentation to Council to highlight key messages regarding the Zero Carbon Whitby Plan and to express the Committee's support of the Plan;
- the financial benefits of approving the requested one-time funding in 2023 for recommended sustainability initiatives;
- presenting a breakdown of cost and line items to show the long-term cost recovery;
- upgrading assets currently at the end of their lifespan with assets that support the reduction of GHG emissions; and,
- applying for grants to offset costs.

Recommendation:

Moved by Catherine Philogene

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee advocates for Council to approve the one-time funding request of \$720,000.

Carried

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. General Business and Reports

7.1 Committee Member Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their experience and interest in serving on the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

7.2 Sustainability Initiatives

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

7.2.1 Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Programs

- Community Greening Program
- Backyard Tree Planting

7.2.2 Bee City

7.2.3 Tree Cities of the World

7.2.4 Mayors' Monarch Pledge

7.2.5 Seeds to Bees

7.2.6 Whitby Green Standards

7.2.7 District Energy System

7.3 2023 Sustainability Events

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

- World Water Day - March 22, 2023
- Earth Hour - March 25, 2023
- Earth Week - April 16-23, 2023
- Earth Day - April 22, 2023
- 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

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. Council Update

Councillor Lundquist advised that Council was reviewing the 2023 Budget.

10. Other Business

10.1 Durham Meadoway Project

Brian Kelly provided an overview of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study, Gatineau Hydro Corridor that runs northeast to southwest through Durham Region. Mr. Kelly advised that the Region was planning for the development of Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) through the corridor. He stated that the project presented an opportunity to develop green energy along the corridor such as solar panels, battery storage, and horizontal or vertical geothermal beds. He further stated that the Region has held two Public Open House sessions for input from the community. He requested that the Committee put forward a recommendation to support the inclusion of green energy development as part of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study.

Recommendation:

Moved by Brian Kelly

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee recommends that Whitby Town Council urge the Region of Durham to broaden the scope of the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study to include the possibility of green energy projects on the Gatineau Hydro Corridor through Durham in addition to the proposed multi-use path for active transportation.

Note: The decision of the Committee was to defer consideration of this motion to allow the Committee to receive more information about the Durham Meadoway, the Visioning Study, and the proposal for green energy production.

11. Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Janet Dignem

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on March 1, 2023.