

Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes  
September 1, 2021 - 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

---

**Present:** Beatrice Adesemowo, Chair  
Robynne Dunn  
Miranda Pautler  
Judy Rivers  
Patti Mavins, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

**Also Present:** Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change  
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy & Sustainability  
Programs Coordinator  
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording  
Secretary)

**Regrets:** Timothy Eric  
Gayle Giesbrecht  
Laurie Kuchirka, Vice-Chair  
Melanie Maloney

---

Call to Order

**1** The meeting was Called to Order at 7:16 p.m.

1. Disclosures of Interest

**1.1** There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

**2.1** Minutes - June 2, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Miranda Pautler

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of June 2, 2021 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** Funding Applications Update

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding grants and funding applications submitted by the Town's Sustainability Department including:

- a grant through Infrastructure Canada Green Communities Fund for 25 million dollars to support the development of the Whitby Sports Complex as a zero-carbon certified facility;
- submitting funding applications for six million dollars in renovations and equipment to upgrade the McKinney Centre to a zero-carbon certified facility;
- submitting a funding application to conduct a Zero Carbon Whitby Costing Study to develop a carbon budget;
- applying for funding for a sub-metering project that would monitor energy consumption of specific equipment within a building rather than monitor the overall energy consumption for an entire building;
- applying for funding to support developing a geo-thermal district energy system to support 19 commercial buildings and the Whitby Sports Complex; and,
- funding received from the Atmospheric Fund to support the Whitby Green Standard.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding how the Town selected the McKinney Centre and Whitby Sports Complex to become zero carbon certified facilities.

**5.2** Fall Engagement Plan

National Forest Week and Tree Day

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Fall Engagement Plan. Ms. Schofield stated that National Forest Week was the third week of September and that Tree Day was September 22, 2021. She further

stated that the events planned to celebrate National Forest Week and Tree Day included:

- a Tree ID 101 Webinar 1-hour presentation;
- a Tree-via Scavenger Hunt;
- a Proclamation to Council; and,
- focusing on the ways in which climate change impacts trees.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether the Tree ID 101 Webinar and how to access it had been advertised.

#### Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Week

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that that the Town was seeking volunteers to arrange a shoreline cleanup.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- planning a cleanup event in September or October;
- the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Day was September 18, 2021;
- organizing a shoreline cleanup by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Members; and,
- following up on a day, location, and time for a shoreline cleanup with the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Members.

#### Waste Reduction Week

Suprajha Vaithianathan advised that Waste Reduction Week was October 18 to 25, 2021. Ms. Vaithianathan stated that the events for Waste Reduction Week included:

- a proclamation for Waste Reduction Week;
- promoting the waste sorting game;
- hosting a virtual repair cafe to encourage people to repair items rather than throw them away; and,
- sharing tips on how to save energy and reduce food waste.

Discussion ensued regarding additional activities which included:

- an e-waste drive;
- a clothes swap;
- composting in your own backyard; and,
- making COVID-19 face masks from scrap material.

#### Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Fall Tree Planting

Jade Schofield advised that a Tree Planting event would take place on October 17, 2021 at Rosedale Park. Ms. Schofield stated that the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) was leading the event

and that 250 trees would be planted. She advised that a cap would be placed on the number of volunteers permitted to participate and that volunteers were encouraged to bring their own tools such as shovels, gloves, and a bucket. She further stated that volunteers to the event would be responsible for bringing their own beverages.

**5.3** Climate Adaptation Plan: ISeeChange, Community Climate and Weather Journal

Jade Schofield advised that the Town of Whitby Climate Adaptation Plan was formally launched. Ms. Schofield stated that as part of the launch, the ISeeChange App would be used to collect residents' stories and experiences related to climate change in order to help understand the daily impacts of changing weather. She further stated that the overall goal of the ISeeChange App was to better understand how weather impacts people, social services, and economic services. Ms. Schofield requested that a Member of the Committee volunteer to be interviewed by the ISeeChange consultant.

Robynne Dunn volunteered to be interviewed.

**6.** Correspondence

**6.1** There was no correspondence.

**7.** Council Update

**7.1** There was no Council update.

**8.** Other Business

**8.1** Year of the Garden

Judy Rivers advised that 2022 was being declared the Year of the Garden by Communities in Bloom and the Canadian Garden Council. Ms. Rivers stated that municipalities were being invited to participate in this initiative by proclaiming 2022 as the Year of the Garden, recognizing National Garden Day on June 18, 2021, and committing to being recognized as a Garden Friendly City.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- providing a recommendation to Council and including language that supports the Committee's mandate such as planting pollinators;
- discussing a partnership with the Whitby in Bloom Committee; and,

- inviting the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Whitby in Bloom Committee to the October Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting to discuss a partnership regarding the 2022 Year of the Garden initiative.

9. Next Meeting

**9.1** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

**10.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Judy Rivers

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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