

Present: Poonam Dewan
Robynne Dunn
Laurie Kuchirka
Patti Mavins, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative
Judy Rivers
Michelle Thornley, Vice Chair

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy & Sustainability
Programs Coordinator
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording
Secretary)

Regrets: Beatrice Adesemowo
David Budd
Timothy Eric
Mahroz Hussain, Chair
Miranda Pautler

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - February 2, 2022

Recommendation:

Moved By Patti Mavins

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of February 2, 2022 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Meandra Provencal, Marketing and Communications, Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
Re: Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) and the Town of Whitby: July 2020 to Present

Meandra Provencal provided an update regarding the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) project in the Town of Whitby from July 2020 to present. Highlights of the presentation included:

- establishing the LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program in 2020;
- offering public resources, education, and engagement activities;
- the 136 trees planted in the Town of Whitby during the first year of the program; and,
- a naturalization planting event in Rosedale Park in October 2021.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- promotion of the program and sign-up information for the LEAF Backyard Tree Planting Program;
- whether there were volunteer opportunities available to the public; and,
- whether a Tree Planting Program was available to schools.

3.2 Rochelle Byrne, Executive Director, A Greener Future
Re: A Greener Future Initiatives

Rochelle Byrne provided a presentation regarding A Greener Future Initiatives. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the background of A Greener Future in 2014 and the first litter clean-up event;
- the two key initiatives of A Greener Future including Love Your Lakes and Butt Blitz;
- statistical information collected from the Paddle Against Plastic event which included collecting 41,992 pieces of litter and a 430 km paddleboard trek;
- the screening of the documentary Shoreline at the Whitby Public Library on World Water Day;
- items of concern such as single use plastics, hygiene items, and nurdles (plastic beads for new plastic products); and,
- ways people can support environmental causes, such as participating in continuous learning and events.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- communications strategies to increase awareness of cigarette butt litter; and,
- whether there was legislation regarding the clean-up of nurdle spills.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Canada Water Day, March 22, 2022

Suprajha Vaithianathan provided an update regarding the World Water Day screening of the documentary Shoreline. Ms. Vaithianathan advised that the event would begin at 7:00 p.m. on March 22, 2022. She further advised that space was limited to approximately 70 people. Ms. Vaithianathan requested that Members volunteer to assist with the event.

5.2 Earth Week Celebrations, April 2022 and the Climate Conversation Webinar Series

Suprajha Vaithianathan provided an update regarding Earth Week Celebrations and the Climate Conversation Webinar Series. Ms. Vaithianathan requested feedback regarding in person events for Earth Week.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a 'plogging' event, a combination of picking up litter and jogging;
- conservation walking tours and a clean-up blitz;
- incorporating a citizen science event with the walking tour;
- sending out messaging regarding the Climate Conversation Webinar Series during Earth Week;
- incorporating invasive species education with the walking tour;
- a 'pick up litter' challenge for Whitby residents; and,
- hosting a zero waste presentation.

5.3 Whitby in Bloom Committee Update

Patti Mavins provided an update regarding the Whitby in Bloom Committee which included:

- the 2022 Whitby in Bloom Committee Garden Educational Seminars;
- the 2022 Whitby in Bloom Committee Speaker Series;
- the 2022 Whitby in Bloom Committee Garden Tour; and,
- submitting a proclamation request to Council regarding 2022 as the Year of the Garden.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1** There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

- 7.1** Councillor Yamada provided an update regarding:
- discussions regarding the height of hedges and a request for feedback from the community;
 - concerns received from residents regarding the winter storm event and customer service changes that may be implemented; and,
 - the 2022-2025 Special Events Strategy.

8. Other Business

8.1 Notice of Public Meeting

Suprajha Vaithianathan stated that a public notice was circulated regarding a Zoning By-law Amendment Application by the Town for the lands within the Brooklin Urban expansion area. Ms. Vaithianathan further stated that Members interested in learning more could attend the Public Meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022.

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on May 4, 2022.