

Present: M. Christine Castle, Vice Chair
Robynne Dunn
Erica Gale
Gayle Giesbrecht
Laurie Kuchirka
Luis Licsi
Miranda Pautler, Chair
Judy Rivers

Also Present: Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Beatrice Adesemowo
Timothy Eric
Melanie Maloney
Deborah McCord
Robert Toyama, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest
2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - June 3, 2020

Recommendation:

Moved By Erica Gayle

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of June 3, 2020 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 Ian McVey, Manager of Sustainability, Region of Durham
Re: Overview of Sustainability Programs, Region of Durham

Ian McVey provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Sustainability Programs within the Region of Durham. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the focus of the Corporate Climate Action Plan on operations and delivery of services;
- initiatives such as long-term waste management, low carbon fleet strategy, and facilities green house gas (GHG) reduction plan;
- the purpose of the home energy savings program to educate homeowners and provide incentives to increase home energy efficiency;
- using nature based solutions to increase tree coverage and resilience within Durham Region; and,
- the electric vehicle charging station network.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether an education component on heat pump energy was included in the home energy savings program;
- whether geothermal heat pumps were being considered; and,
- whether the program offered rebates for homeowners.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Update

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) program. Ms. Schofield advised that Whitby had the highest uptake of all municipalities within the Region of Durham.

5.2 Whitby Green Standard Update

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Whitby Green Standard. Ms. Schofield advised that there had been a delay in order to address concerns from several community groups. She further advised that the revised draft was expected to be ready for the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 21, 2020.

Recommendation:

Moved By Erica Gayle

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee endorses the Whitby Green Standard and further supports the gradual increase of sustainability performance measures as provided in the Whitby Green Standard.

Carried

5.3 Energy Management Plan Update

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Energy Management Plan and advised that the Town was required to complete an Energy Management Plan every 5 years in accordance with provincial requirements. Ms. Schofield further advised that funding had been received from Natural Resources Canada and that a consulting group had been hired to complete a performance audit within 10 weeks to identify energy savings opportunities within the Town facilities.

5.4 Culture Plan Update

Jade Schofield advised that the Culture Plan was being re-scoped for more clarity and that a new draft would be ready at a later date.

5.5 Event and Engagement Opportunities Discussion

M. Christine Castle provided an overview of the 2019-2022 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Work Plan. Areas of focus included:

- policy development and implementation;
- community outreach and stewardship;
- community education; and,
- issues of interest.

It was the consensus of the committee to bring a final draft forward at the November 4, 2020 meeting after further review by the committee and comments have been received.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 There was no Council update.

8. Other Business

8.1 Bill 187, Municipal Emergency Act, 2020

Jade Schofield suggested that members of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee should sign up to receive updates from Ontario's Environmental Registry in order to remain current on provincial issues that may impact the Town.

8.2 International Joint Committee

Jade Schofield advised that the International Joint Committee monitors lake levels for lakes bordering the United States and Canada. Ms. Schofield further advised that the International Joint Committee indicated that the St. Lawrence River water levels were at an all-time low and to compensate for the reduction in water levels, the Robert Moses-Robert H. Saunders Power Dam would be opened. She advised that this would lead to a lowering of the water levels of the Great Lakes.

8.3 Bee City and Pollinator Update Request

M. Christine Castle requested an update regarding the continuation of the Town of Whitby's and the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's support of a bee hive at Town Hall.

A brief discussion ensued regarding:

- the balance between using honey bees as an educational tool for public awareness on native bee species;
- pursuing a public promotional campaign to name a 'Whitby Bee'; and,
- providing context for native bee habitats.

8.4 Single Use Plastics Update

Robynne Dunn requested an update regarding the use of single-use plastics in Whitby.

Jade Schofield advised that steps to finding alternatives and/or banning the use of single-use plastic had been delayed due to COVID-19 and that the issue would possibly be a focus in January 2021.

Erica Gale requested that an update be provided by Staff at the upcoming October 7, 2020 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

8.5 Changes to the Recycling Program

Robynne Dunn requested an update regarding changes made to recycling programs.

A brief discussion ensued regarding:

- that the changes would impact carrying costs of recycling programs not the services themselves; and,
- postponement of the compost initiative due to COVID-19.

M. Christine Castle requested that more information regarding waste management within the Town be addressed at a future Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1** Wednesday, October 7, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Location to be determined.

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on October 7, 2020.