

Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes
January 8, 2020 - 7:00 PM
Committee Room One
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Beatrice Adesemowo
M. Christine Castle, Vice-Chair
Gayle Giesbrecht
Stacey Kerr
Miranda Pautler, Chair
Deborah McCord
Judy Rivers
Robert Toyama, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

Also Present: Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate
Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change
Jodi Janwin, Staff Liaison, Energy and Sustainability Programs
Coordinator
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Adel Abdollahzadeh
Melanie Maloney

Call to Order

1. Appointment of Chair

- 1.1** The Committee was advised that the appointment for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for the January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 term would take place at this time.

Jodi Janwin called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Gayle Giesbrecht nominated Miranda Pautler for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Miranda Pautler accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Jodi Janwin called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Deborah McCord nominated M. Christine Castle for the position of Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

M. Christine Castle accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That Miranda Pautler be appointed Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2020.

Carried

Recommendation:

Moved By Deborah McCord

That M. Christine Castle be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2020.

Carried

Miranda Pautler assumed the Chair.

2. Disclosures of Interest

2.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - November 6, 2019

It was the consensus of the Committee to amend Item 5.1, Event Planning for 2020, by adding the following point to the discussion:

- "establishing a subcommittee to discuss and research movies and event details for the movie night event and present information at the next Committee meeting."

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of November 6, 2019, as amended, be approved.

Carried

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 4.2, Dr. Sheila Colla, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, York University, Re: Native Bees, at this time.

4. Presentations

- 4.1** Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, Town of Whitby
Re: Advisory Committee Policy and Procedure Refresher

Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Advisory Committees' Policy and Procedures. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the responsibilities of staff, Mayor's Designate, Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of advisory committees;
- meeting etiquette, decorum and rules of debate;
- procedures for motions; and,
- rules related to presentations and delegations.

- 4.2** Dr. Sheila Colla, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, York University
Re: Native Bees

Dr. Shelia Colla, Assistant Professor, provided a presentation regarding Native Bees. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the importance of conserving biodiversity using strategies based on scientific evidence;
- changing current policies which have been based on political and public factors;
- promoting fruit crops and providing insurance against honey bee losses through native pollinators;
- reducing the impact of climate change through bio diverse systems;

- the threats to bee decline such as pathogen spillover, climate change, pesticide use and habitat loss;
- increased levels of disease in wild bees in areas where there were managed bees;
- the susceptibility of bumble bees to climate change; and,
- developing solutions by quantifying habitats via scientific research, determining distinct habitat requirements for each species, targeting edges of habitats, increasing food availability later in the season, tailoring solutions for each species of bee and developing new policies through collaboration of stakeholders, learning from other nations and policies and making solutions applicable across various land uses.

A question and answer period ensued regarding the steps taken by Toronto to establish a 'City Bee'. Ms. Colla advised that looking at common native plants and which native bees commonly visited those plants was the best starting point in choosing a 'City Bee'.

A brief discussion ensued regarding initiatives the Town could take to promote native bees including:

- adjusting woodland and park maintenance schedules such as leaving logs to rot, cutting grass less often, planting native trees, installing native pollinator gardens and establishing community gardens; and,
- protecting the current habitat that supports native bee populations.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 4.1, Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator, Town of Whitby, Re: Advisory Committee Policy and Procedure Refresher, at this time.

5. Delegations

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Event Planning for 2020

Jodi Janwin requested feedback regarding the Movie Night event for 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the Committee's movie selection survey results;
- the dates that the Courthouse Theatre, Centennial Building would be available;
- aligning the Movie Night event with national and international events such as World Meteorological day and Earth Day;

- using the movie 'Tomorrow' to create public awareness of Whitby's declaration of climate change as an emergency;
- the films 'Tomorrow' and 'Clean Bin Project' would both align well with climate change and single use plastics elimination ban initiatives outlined in the Committee's Action Plan;
- bringing in a discussion panel and information booths to support the content of the movie choice;
- March 23, 2020 as the date for the Movie Night and 'Tomorrow' as the movie choice; and,
- refining the details of the event via ongoing communications.

6.2 Community Services Update

Jodi Janwin advised that a community garden information session would be held on January 30, 2020 at the Centennial Building and that more information could be found on the Town's webpage. Ms. Janwin further advised that presentations would include information on existing community gardens in Durham and the Town's Community Gardens Policy.

6.3 Whitby in Bloom Committee Update

Jodi Janwin advised that nominations for the position of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee would be postponed to the February 5, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Janwin further advised that the Whitby in Bloom Committee was not able to assume additional events such as the Seminar Series at this time.

7. Correspondence

7.1 There was no correspondence.

8. Council Update

8.1 Councillor Yamada advised the Committee that the Budget Overview and Public Input meeting would take place on February 18, 2020 and encouraged Members from the committee to attend.

9. Other Business

9.1 There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting

10.1 Wednesday, February 5, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Committee Room One, Whitby Town Hall
575 Rossland Road East

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on February 5, 2020.

H. Oerlemans, Council and Committee
Coordinator

M. Pautler, Committee Chair