

Present: Beatrice Adesemowo
M. Christine Castle, Chair
Robynne Dunn (logged on at 7:23 p.m.)
Timothy Eric
Erica Gale
Gayle Giesbrecht
Laurie Kuchirka, Vice-Chair
Melanie Maloney
Patti Mavins, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative (logged on at 8:30 p.m.)
Miranda Pautler (logged on at 7:24 p.m.)
Judy Rivers

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

Regrets: None noted

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - February 3, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Erica Gale

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of February 3, 2021 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

**3.1 David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation
Re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project**

David Hopper provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project. Highlights of the presentation included:

- an overview of the environmental components of the project;
- completion of the environmental assessment at the end of 2021;
- linking communities and employment across Toronto and the Region of Durham boundary;
- benefits of the network including mobility for residents, improved active transportation, improved streetscape, and accessibility improvements at intersections; and,
- public concerns regarding traffic infiltration, access restrictions to existing roads, removal of on-street parking in Downtown Whitby, gaps in the cycling network, and impacts to cultural heritage.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether electric roadways were being considered;
- what measures were being taken to conserve trees and compensation for the removal of trees in the downtown corridor;
- whether there was a strategy to reduce and more effectively apply salt during the winter or if alternative options to salt had been considered;
- whether recycling bins would be installed at the transit stops;
- whether traffic emission levels would be studied to verify the claim that the Bus Rapid Transit system would reduce emissions; and,
- how traffic would be diverted from the downtown.

**3.2 Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change,
Town of Whitby
Re: Zero Carbon Whitby: Corporate Energy and Green House Gas
(GHG) Reduction Plan Update**

M. Christine Castle requested that this Item be deferred to the April 7, 2021 meeting.

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That Item 3.2, Zero Carbon Whitby: Corporate Energy and Green House Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan presentation be deferred to the April 7, 2021 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

Carried

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report

M. Christine Castle requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report.

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report be approved.

Carried

5.2 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2021 Work Plan Priorities

M. Christine Castle advised that she had reviewed the feedback received from the Committee. Ms. Castle requested additional feedback from the Committee regarding action items for 2021 based on the Committee's priorities.

5.3 Active Transportation Plan Consultation: Committee Response

Laurie Kuchirka advised that the Committee's suggestions were incorporated into the Active Transportation Plan Consultation Committee Response.

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee endorses and supports the Draft Active Transportation Plan and requests that Staff consideration be given to the Committee's suggestions as outlined in the Committee's formal response when implementing the Active Transportation Plan.

Carried

5.4 Climate Change and the Natural Environment Speaker Series Update

Jade Schofield advised that she had met with the guest speakers for the Climate Change and the Natural Environment Speaker Series. Ms. Schofield further advised that the dates, times, and speakers were confirmed for the series and that the series would be hosted through Zoom.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether community action would be incorporated into the series.

5.5 Earth Hour 2021: Proclamation and Update

Gayle Giesbrecht advised that the Earth Hour 2021 proclamation had been submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk and would be on the March 8, 2021 Council agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a 'Call to Action' for Earth Hour 2021 to highlight why climate action was important to residents; and,
- including schools in the 'Call to Action'.

5.6 Earth Day 2021: Proclamation and Update

Gayle Giesbrecht advised that the Earth Day 2021 proclamation had been submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk and would be on an upcoming Council agenda.

Jade Schofield advised that Earth Day events and activities included:

- collecting points for participating in Earth Day activities;
- the Durham Farm Fresh, Climate Change and Local Agriculture webinar; and,
- a digital scavenger hunt.

Ms. Schofield advised that an update would be provided at the April Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting.

5.7 Appointment of Secondary Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee

Gayle Giesbrecht advised that she was the current Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee and that she would like the Committee to nominate a secondary representative for times when she would not be available to attend the Whitby in Bloom Committee meetings. Gayle Giesbrecht advised that the Whitby in Bloom Committee webpage had been updated and included details for upcoming webinars, events, and sign-up information.

Patti Mavins advised that the Whitby in Bloom Committee hosted their first Gardening Series Seminar and that there were over 170 attendees. Ms. Mavins further advised that the Whitby in Bloom 2021 Garden Tour would not continue as a virtual event and that confirmation of an in-person event would be available by May 15, 2021.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding several Staff Reports from the March 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting including:

- the updated Whitby Culture Plan which reflects the vision, guiding principles and desired outcomes of Council to strengthen diversity and connectivity of the community;
- an Interim Report on the Customer Service Strategy which would provide more centralized customer service;
- the project update on the North Whitby Sports Complex design options;
- proposed changes to the Election Sign By-law; and,
- a preferred site location for the acute care hospital in Durham Region had been presented at the February 22, 2021 Special Council meeting by the Hospital Task Force.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding whether the proposed amendments to the Election Sign By-law would limit the distance between signs.

8. Other Business

8.1 Seed Sharing Program

Robynne Dunn advised that the Durham Master Gardeners were partnering with the Whitby Public Library on a Seed Sharing Library.

8.2 Downtown Secondary Plan Report Comments

Erica Gale advised that comments for the Downtown Secondary Plan were not complete at this time.

It was the consensus of the Committee to not put forward comments regarding the Downtown Secondary Plan.

8.3 Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) Achievement Award Nominations

M. Christine Castle advised that the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee Achievement Award nominations were due by the end of April. Ms. Castle requested that the Committee consider nominees and discuss the matter at the April 7, 2021 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting.

8.4 Durham Region Cycling Plan

M. Christine Castle advised that the Durham Region Cycling Plan would be available for comment and requested that the committee review the Cycling Plan and provide feedback.

Jade Schofield advised that cycling maps had been sent out for review and comment.

8.5 Youth Council Representatives

M. Christine Castle advised that the Committee's Terms of Reference indicated there could be two Youth Council members serving on the Committee.

Jade Schofield advised that she discussed the matter with the Youth Council Staff Liaison and that recruitment for Youth Council representatives would proceed at a later date.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Miranda Pautler

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on April 7, 2021.