

SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES  
January 14, 2013 -5:30 pm  
Council Chambers  
Whitby Municipal Building

**Present:** Mayor Perkins  
Councillor Coe  
Councillor Drumm  
Councillor Emm  
Councillor Hanson  
Councillor Mitchell  
Councillor Montague  
Councillor Roy

**Also Present:** R. Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer  
K. Nix, Commissioner of Corporate Services/Treasurer  
R. Short, Commissioner of Planning  
D. Wilcox, Town Clerk  
L. Doughty, Deputy Clerk

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1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest noted.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Sustainability Training

John Purkis and Caroline Nolan of the Natural Step Canada presented the Corporate Sustainability session, reviewing highlights from the recent readiness assessment completed by the Town of Whitby. An overview of sustainability planning in Canada was provided. Mr. Purkis advised that many excellent sustainability plans result from a robust community engagement process. He further highlighted the challenges of a sustainability plan, such as increased or unexpected costs; regulatory compliance; public health issues and quality of life. Mr. Purkis outlined the importance of a common "sustainability" language in order to facilitate conversations and build on the four standard principles of

sustainability.

Ms. Nolan made reference to recent environmental scan data collected on behalf of the Town of Whitby and the opportunity to increase our knowledge of sustainability.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to identify metrics based on the four identified standards of sustainability. The Town of Whitby may choose to move forward with a community consultation process including common language; common vision; and an opportunity to enhance the leadership role in commitment to sustainability. Members of Council would like a sense of what their role is in sustainability.

Further discussion ensued regarding the use of a sustainability lens to review the official plan or other community documents; the development of cross departmental teams to address a new vision for sustainability; and the needed connection with local community and business organizations to commit to the sustainability plan and its related strategies and goals.

Mayor Perkins thanked the consultants and staff for their excellent work on the project.

3. ADJOURNMENT

**3.1** Motion to adjourn.

RECOMMENDATION:

**Resolution No. 02-13**

Moved By Councillor Coe  
Seconded by Councillor Roy

That the meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Debi A. Wilcox, Town Clerk

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Patricia Perkins, Mayor