

Present: Beatrice Adesemowo
Gayle Giesbrecht
Laurie Kuchirka, Vice-Chair
Melanie Maloney
Miranda Pautler
Judy Rivers
Patti Mavins, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

Also Present: Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change
Suprajha Vaithianathan, Staff Liaison, Energy & Sustainability
Programs Coordinator
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Timothy Eric
Robynne Dunn

Call to Order

1. Appointment of Chair

- 1.1 Laurie Kuchirka called for nominations for the Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2021.

Judy Rivers nominated Beatrice Adesemowo for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Beatrice Adesemowo accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Judy Rivers

That Beatrice Adesemowo be appointed as Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2021.

Carried

2. Disclosures of Interest

- 2.1** Miranda Pautler made a declaration of pecuniary interest regarding Item 6.4, Ontario Invasive Species Act Consultation, as she is employed with the Ontario Public Service. Ms. Pautler did not take part in the discussion on this matter.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - May 5, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of May 5, 2021 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

- 4.1** Jamie Davidson, Director, Watershed Planning and Natural Heritage, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
Re: Durham Rural Tree Planting Program

Jamie Davidson provided a presentation regarding the Durham Rural Tree Planting Program. Highlights of the presentation included:

- nature based solutions to climate change such as tree planting;
- previous challenges for tree planting in Durham Region;
- the watershed goals of the Durham Rural Tree Planting Program such as restoring at least 213 hectares of forest cover in the Lynde Creek watershed; and,
- building long term relationships between the Conservation Authorities and landowners.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- how the program would ensure tree diversity; and,

- the criteria for a rural land owner.

4.2 Jade Schofield, Project Manager, Sustainability and Climate Change,
Town of Whitby
Re: 2020 Sustainability Report

Jade Schofield provided a presentation regarding the 2020 Sustainability Annual Report. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the actions taken by the Town of Whitby in 2020 and 2021 to ensure all three pillars and ten principles of sustainability are met;
- the Town of Whitby's commitments to sustainability such as the Corporate Sustainability Plan, Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan, Durham Community Energy Plan, and Zero Carbon Whitby;
- key accomplishments of 2020 such as launching the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Program, Electronic Vehicle (EV) charging funding, the Whitby Green Standard, and expanding active transportation networks; and,
- the focus for 2021 such as Electronic Vehicle (EV) chargers, Urban Forest Management Plan, Community Cleanup online tool, and Corporate Waste Reduction Strategy.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the designation of Whitby as a Tree City of the World.

5. Delegations

5.1 There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Update Feedback

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review Update presentation from the May 5, 2021 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Schofield requested feedback from the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- putting forward a motion to protect mature trees on private property; and,
- preventing private trees of a specified minimum circumference from being cut down.

Recommendation:

Moved By Laurie Kuchirka

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. Council direct Staff to develop a Private Tree By-law to protect the tree canopy on private property through the Comprehensive Zoning By-law update and the Urban Forest Management Plan;
2. Staff report back to the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee with a draft of the Private Tree By-law;
3. The Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee research neighbouring municipality's accomplishments on similar by-laws; and,
4. Staff and Council attend a future Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting to review the Committee's findings.

Carried

6.2 Fall Engagement Plan

- National Tree Day
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Week

Jade Schofield requested feedback from the Committee regarding initiatives for Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Week.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- hosting a community shoreline cleanup;
- promoting cleanup throughout the community; and,
- utilizing the Cleanup App to register participants for the shoreline cleanup and track the amount of litter collected.

Jade Schofield requested feedback from the Committee regarding initiatives for National Tree Day.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- hosting a webinar on the importance of trees for clean air and tree identification; and,
- creating a tree scavenger hunt as a follow-up activity for the webinar.

6.3 Climate Conversations Webinar Series Update

Jade Schofield stated that there were approximately 20 attendees to the Invasive Species Webinar. Ms. Schofield advised that the Bees Love Trees webinar hosted by Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) would be held on June 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

6.4 Ontario Invasive Species Act Consultation

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Miranda Pautler did not take part in the discussion on this matter

Jade Schofield advised that the Ontario Invasive Species Act was currently open for public comment. Ms. Schofield stated that an additional 15 species were being considered for invasive species designation. She further stated that the deadline to submit comments was June 7, 2021.

7. Correspondence

7.1 There was no correspondence.

8. Council Update

8.1 There was no Council update.

9. Other Business

9.1 There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting

10.1 Wednesday, September 1, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
To be determined

11. Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on September 1, 2021.