

**Present:** M. Christine Castle, Chair  
Erica Gale  
Gayle Giesbrecht  
Laurie Kuchirka, Vice-Chair  
Melanie Maloney (logged off at 8:35 p.m.)  
Miranda Pautler  
Judy Rivers  
Robert Toyama, Whitby in Bloom Committee Representative

**Also Present:** Councillor Yamada, Mayor's Designate  
Aimee Pugao, Planner II, Parks Planning  
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:** Beatrice Adesemowo  
Robynne Dunn  
Timothy Eric  
Luis Licsi

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#### Call to Order

#### 1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-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, 2021 to December 31, 2021 term would take place at this time.

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

M. Christine Castle nominated Miranda Pautler for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

Miranda Pautler declined the nomination.

Miranda Pautler nominated M. Christine Castle for the position of Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee.

M. Christine Castle 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.

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

Laurie Kuchirka accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations and the nominations were closed.

Recommendation:

Moved By Miranda Pautler

That M. Christine Castle be appointed Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2021.

**Carried**

Recommendation:

Moved By M. Christine Castle

That Laurie Kuchirka be appointed Vice-Chair of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee for a term ending on December 31, 2021.

**Carried**

2. Disclosures of Interest

2.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

3.1 Minutes - December 2, 2020

A correction was made to the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of November 4, 2020 as follows:

- the word 'perceived' be added between the word 'potential' and 'conflict' under Item 1.1.

Recommendation:

Moved By Erica Gale

1. That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of November 4, 2020, as amended be approved; and,
2. That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of December 2, 2020 be approved.

**Carried**

4. Presentations

- 4.1** Lori Tesolin, Supervisor, Policy and Heritage Planning, Principal Planner, Town of Whitby and Catherine Jay, Principal, Sorensen, Gravely, and Lowes (SGL) Planning and Design Inc.  
Re: Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan Update

Lori Tesolin appeared before Committee to provide an update on the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan. Ms. Tesolin stated that the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan was a land use planning tool for managing growth and development in downtown areas. She advised that the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan was a key priority of Council and that the current plan needed to be updated to reflect new policies and development trends.

Catherine Jay provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the purpose of the study to establish updated policies for growth management and sustainable development;
- updating the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan to reflect the Town's goals and vision;
- topics addressed such as where buildings, parks and roads should be located, height and density of buildings, as well as transportation options;
- the four phases of the study process, including: data collection, background review and analysis, preparation of proposed land

use concepts, a draft proposed OPA for the Secondary Plan, and a staff recommended OPA for the Secondary Plan;

- alternative methods of travel within the downtown such as walking, transit, and biking; and,
- using online engagement to seek public opinion and feedback.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- what type of feedback was being sought from this Committee;
- whether public space upgrades would be subject to grants for businesses in the downtown;
- how the Secondary Plan would merge with Metrolinx and the Bus Rapid Transit proposal;
- how mature trees would be protected and preserved; and,
- whether suggestions from other studies such as the Port Whitby Sustainability Plan were being considered.

**4.2** Chris Potvin, Supervisor, Active Transportation, Town of Whitby  
Re: Draft Active Transportation Plan, Sustainable City

Chris Potvin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the updated Active Transportation Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of the ATP as a result of changes in travel patterns;
- recognizing the need for engineering, education, and societal change to encourage use of alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel;
- encouraging greater interaction with natural spaces, and reducing environmental impacts due to traffic;
- providing year-round maintenance to active transportation facilities to encourage use; and,
- the costs to deliver the ATP.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- which geographical areas the proposed infrastructure additions would focus on;
- how was climate change being factored into the ATP;
- whether there were any strategies in place to protect natural environmental features;
- which active transportation modalities were included in user counts;
- whether structures such as water bottle fill stations, washrooms, rest benches, and shade features have been considered along the active transportation routes; and,
- where comments could be forwarded regarding the ATP.

5. Delegations

**5.1** There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

**6.1** ReCollect Waste Sorting Game Update

Jodi Janwin provided an update regarding the ReCollect Waste Sorting Game. Ms. Janwin advised that there was an opportunity to recommend two revisions. She requested that Members of the Committee play the game and provide feedback regarding what they like, didn't like, and how the game could better represent the Town. She further requested that comments be provided by January 8, 2021.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the time frame for launching the game.

**6.2** Climate Change Webinar/Speaker Series

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Climate Change Webinar/Speaker Series topics which included:

- an invasive species awareness program in March;
- a presentation by Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) on wetlands in April;
- a presentation by Durham Farm Fresh on food security in May; and,
- a presentation by Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) on pollinators called 'Bees Need Trees' in June.

**6.3** Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations program and advised that funding had been received through the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program. Ms. Schofield further advised that 20 charging stations would be available for public and staff use in Whitby in 2021.

**6.4** Bee City Canada and Pollinator Partnership Canada

Jade Schofield advised that the application to maintain Whitby's designation as a Bee City of Canada had merged with the Pollinator Partnership Canada program. Ms. Schofield stated that some of the application requirements may change.

M. Christine Castle requested information regarding the status of the Town Hall Bee Hive in relation to honey bees versus protecting native pollinators.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- educational benefits related to the Town Hall Bee Hive;
- the grant money that funded the Town Hall Bee Hive; and,
- using the Town Hall Bee Hive to open up conversations and promote native bees and providing educational materials regarding native pollinators.

## **6.5 Tree City Application**

Jade Schofield provided an update regarding the Tree City Application. Ms. Schofield advised that the Town of Whitby was one of nine cities in Canada with this designation. She stated that to maintain the designation, there were five key areas that needed to be met which included:

- qualified staff who are responsible for overseeing the protection of trees;
- establishing and implementing tree policies;
- conducting tree canopy and forest assessments;
- dedicating an annual budget to protecting trees; and,
- celebrating achievements in tree stewardship.

Ms. Schofield provided a further update regarding key achievements in 2020, which included:

- updating the Town's tree protection requirements for all development sites;
- providing an annual budget for trees which included planting 1506 trees, pruning 9121 trees, and removing 350 trees;
- launching the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) residential backyard tree planting program; and,
- online educational programs.

Ms. Schofield advised that the Town had entered into an agreement to plant 50 trees to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, however, due to COVID-19, this initiative would be delayed until later in 2021.

## **6.6 Community Services Update**

Aimee Pugao advised that the Town's Operational Services staff would be focusing on the removal of Buckthorn, and adding naturalized and native plantings in Cullen Central Park during the spring.

**6.7** Whitby in Bloom Update

There was no Whitby in Bloom update.

**6.8** Appointment of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee

Jodi Janwin asked if there were any volunteers for the position of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee.

Gayle Giesbrecht volunteered for the position and requested that two members of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee fill this position and take turns attending Whitby in Bloom Committee meetings. Discussion ensued regarding deferring this item to the February 3, 2021 Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting to recruit a second individual to fill the position of Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Representative for the Whitby in Bloom Committee.

**7.** Correspondence

**7.1** There was no correspondence.

**8.** Council Update

**8.1** Councillor Yamada provided updates regarding:

- a motion to change Regional Councillor elections from an 'at large' election to a ward election;
- companies progressing through the 1855 Whitby Technology Accelerator program and moving on to the landing pad phase; and,
- a motion requesting the Province to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak at the Sunnycrest Nursing Home.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the current election process for Regional Councillors.

**9.** Other Business

**9.1** 2021 Climate Change Symposium

M. Christine Castle stated that the City of Kingston was hosting a 2021 Climate Change Symposium and suggested that Members register for the Symposium to see what they are doing and generate ideas for this Committee.

**9.2** Changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27  
- Schedule 6

M. Christine Castle requested that Councillor Yamada provide Members of the Committee with Schedule 6 from the Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O 1990, c. C.27.

10. Next Meeting

**10.1** Wednesday, February 3, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting

11. Adjournment

**11.1** Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Gayle Giesbrecht

That the meeting adjourn.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**Note: These minutes were approved by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee on February 3, 2021.**