



# PORT COLBORNE

**Meeting  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
July 10, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**

**The following were in attendance:**

Staff: Chris Lee  
Darlene Suddard  
Janice Peyton

Council: Councillor Mark Bagu  
Councillor Harry Wells

Public Members: Clayton Nadeau  
Beth Palma  
Jack Hellinga  
Paul Ruzycki  
George McKibbon

Guest: Alana Vander Veen, Drainage Superintendent

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Beth Palma called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Clayton Nadeau  
Seconded by George McKibbon

That the agenda dated July 10, 2019 be accepted as circulated.  
CARRIED.

**3. Disclosures of Interest**

Nil.

**4. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Moved by George McKibbon  
Seconded by Mark Bagu

That the minutes of May 8, 2019 be accepted as written.  
CARRIED.

## 5. Guest - Drainage Superintendent

At the request of the committee, Alana Vander Veen, City of Port Colborne Drainage Superintendent was in attendance to answer the following questions (*in italics*), which were provided in advance by the committee:

- a) *In the review of Vale's work, MECP has made many comments about the drains. Both drains are proposed for additional sampling and analytical work where nickel is concerned, particularly where these pass through wood lots where ecological damage has and is occurring. Has that been taken into account in the management of the drainage ways in any fashion?*

George asked if the City of Port Colborne has had enquiries from Vale regarding the drains east of Reuter Road. Alana advised the City has not received enquiries from Vale or Vale's consultants concerning additional planned research where this drainage is concerned. Further Alana reported that the Biederman and Wignell drains are located within the area of Vale's CBRA research. City staff are responsible for their maintenance.

Alana advised the committee that the City has engaged an engineer to examine the Biederman and Wignell Drains and their operation. The current draft engineering report examined the wetlands and bog and has determined that the water storage may be greater than previously thought. This storage can be used to establish new flood plain elevations and possibly lessen the extent of current NPCA floodplain mapping and associated regulation.

Harry asked whether this engineering evaluation takes into account Vale's permit to take water associated with a waste management facility on Vale's property. Darlene advised that Vale has six active wells with which groundwater is monitored to ensure potentially contaminated water is captured and treated. The engineering analysis conducted by the City does not take this waste management facility's operation into account. Lands west of Reuter Road were not included in the engineering study area as these lands are not within the drainage area of the Biederman and Wignell Drains.

Alana said the engineering study will help address water quality issues. Jack observed that Vale's research did not examine the drainage ways in the past. Mark advised that Vale kept their woodlot on Vale's property because tree leaves collect and fix the contaminants. Jack observed we should prevent drainage from the nickel-contaminated woodlots from entering the drainage and contaminating the water. Harry advised Vale's CBRA found that the only way nickel becomes mobile is when the PH in the drainage water is lowered. Jack suggested that the City monitor above and below the bog to ascertain whether nickel and other contaminants addressed in the CBRA are being moving towards the Lake.

George observed that this conversation had raised several concerns, which staff can raise with Vale's representatives and consultants when Vale approaches the City to do the additional research MECP has requested.

- b) *This question arises from our review of the quarry-filling proposal. Mention is also made of the quarry dewatering into these drainage ways in Vale's work. To date Vale has limited its research to landscapes, which are agricultural or natural beyond considerations of health issues. So manicured landscapes are not considered: including the drainage ways where agricultural and quarry discharges occur. Has there been any effort to examine what the implications might be of dewatering during the proposed filling of the westerly quarry and more particularly to sort out what might be attributable to the filling if it is approved?*

Alana advised that Quarries 2 and 3 drain to Babion Road. Since that section of the Wignell drain has been cleaned, there have been no issues. Not a lot of lands around the Wignell are affected by flooding. The Quarries are very cooperative; anything that the quarry pumps is on their permit to take water.

Chris explained that three years ago there was a situation of salt levels indicated into the water that was to be pumped by the Quarry drain. City road salt had caused the high salt levels. Measures were taken to ensure that the City roadside ditching would not flow into the quarry pit.

- c) *There is a mechanical device on one of these drains before water enters Lake Erie. I believe it is to prevent high water levels in the Lake flooding the inland lower areas. Could someone describe how that works and what changes have been made or might be necessary in light of the higher Lake levels and changed rainfall patterns? Also, when might it be needed to be replaced?*

Alana confirmed that the reason for the mechanical gates is to manage high water levels. The Eagle Marsh drain has a pump. The Wignell and Beaver Dam have portable pumping set-ups. Staff are looking at updating or replacing these with new pumps. In the new Engineer's reports, an updated system is being recommended that will not only pump but will notify staff of water levels. Currently staff are pro-active in watching the water levels and operating the gate.

Mark commented that he has received many concerns of high water levels lately. The gate closure requirement through Council direction is based on Environment Canada gauge data. Any reading above 170 on the gauge initiates gate closures. Pumping activities occur once the gate is closed and stop once drain levels reach 160 gauge levels.

## **6. Items Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **a) Recycle Bins**

Chris advised that he will order as many bins from the Region as he can from the funds allocated by the EAC, once he has had advice from City staff as to which type of bins to order.

### **b) Boulevard Trees**

George provided a draft handout of what natural and built environment features make for a good walk in Port Colborne. A copy is attached to the minutes. George has been working on this initiative with the Active Transportation Committee and with Community and Economic Development summer students. Eventually, George will refer back to the EAC list of approved trees to determine which trees will fit and suggestions will be brought back to the City. Mark suggested Fielden Avenue be used in the study as it is a highly used walking area.

### **c) Roadside Mowing Initiative**

A copy of Report 2019-75, Information Report on Roadside Grass Mowing for 2019 was provided for information. Chris advised that currently roadside mowing is being done through a contractor, however in 2020 the intent is to handle roadside mowing in house and in a more selective and timely manner. This will be a 2020 budget request.

Jack commented that the roadside mowing initiative should be promoted as an EAC initiative so that the community knows that the committee fully supports Patty's efforts.

## **7. New/Other Business**

### **a) CBRA Action Plan – George McKibbon**

George raised the issue of Vale's Community-Based Action Plan that addresses the findings of the Community-Based Risk Assessment. George provided a draft resolution to Council. After much discussion, the committee resolved as follows:

Moved by George McKibbon  
Seconded by Jack Hellinga

Whereas Vale and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) disagree on the application of Ontario Regulation 153/04 to lands where Vale's proposed action plan applies and this may have profound implications where landowners apply to develop their lands.

The Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee, therefore, recommends to Council that staff be directed to examine the additional planning and design requirements, if any, where applications for approval under the *Planning Act* are concerned in the area to which Vale's action plan applies. The review should determine what additional investigations and potential remedial actions the Region of Niagara, the Regional Health Department or its successor, and the MECP may require during the review of planning applications when a landowner makes application under the *Planning Act* to develop their lands. This review should also include comments from each of Regional Planning and Public Health staff and the MECP as to what their requirements may be and where they could apply these, if any are required.  
CARRIED.

**b) EAC Staff Representative**

Chris advised that Darlene Suddard, Environmental Compliance Supervisor, will be the staff representative for this committee moving forward.

**8. Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The next EAC meeting will be on Sept 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Moved by Harry Wells  
Seconded by George McKibbon

That with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
CARRIED.



EAC  
Operations Centre  
Pleasant Beach Waste Collection  
RE: EAC Meeting PCOC, Engineering Committee Room 2  
quarryview  
to:  
janicepeyton  
08/23/19 09:21 PM  
Hide Details  
From: <quarryview@cogeco.ca>  
To: <janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca>

I suggest, "Chris advised that he will order as many bins from the Region as he can from the funds allocated by the EAC, once he has had advice from City staff as to which type of bins to order." ?

**From:** janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca <janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca>  
**Sent:** August 22, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** quarryview@cogeco.ca  
**Subject:** RE: EAC Meeting PCOC, Engineering Committee Room 2

How's this Beth?? Sorry about the formatting...

Chris advised that the recycle bins are on the Region's list to order, they are awaiting the EAC's decision of style of bin. Staff will work with Community Services to decide style and location of bins and will submit the final order/application to the Region for as many bins as the committee has budgeted for.

Regards,

Janice Peyton  
Executive Administrative Assistant, DEO  
The City of Port Colborne  
Telephone 905-835-2901, Ext. 219  
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Fax 905-835-2939  
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From: <quarryview@cogeco.ca>  
To: <janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca>  
Date: 08/21/19 08:53 PM  
Subject: RE: EAC Meeting PCOC, Engineering Committee Room 2

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Janice, finally had a chance to look at this again. I hate to be a stickler, but still with the recycle bins, I don't think anyone is waiting for any more action from us to order the bins. I believe Chris is going to get a recommendation from his staff and order as many as he can with our budget. Regards, Beth.

**From:** [janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca](mailto:janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca) <[janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca](mailto:janicepeyton@portcolborne.ca)>

**Sent:** August 19, 2019 3:24 PM

**To:** [Beth.Palma@niagarahealth.on.ca](mailto:Beth.Palma@niagarahealth.on.ca); [chrislee@portcolborne.ca](mailto:chrislee@portcolborne.ca); [darlenesuddard@portcolborne.ca](mailto:darlenesuddard@portcolborne.ca); [derekhemauer@portcolborne.ca](mailto:derekhemauer@portcolborne.ca); [georgeh@mckibbonwakefield.com](mailto:georgeh@mckibbonwakefield.com); [harrywells@portcolborne.ca](mailto:harrywells@portcolborne.ca); [hoyletg@gmail.com](mailto:hoyletg@gmail.com); [JHellinga@gmail.com](mailto:JHellinga@gmail.com); [kroyer@npca.ca](mailto:kroyer@npca.ca); [markbagu@portcolborne.ca](mailto:markbagu@portcolborne.ca); [nadeau.c@live.com](mailto:nadeau.c@live.com); [quarryview@cogeco.ca](mailto:quarryview@cogeco.ca); [ryan.waines@jungbunzlauer.com](mailto:ryan.waines@jungbunzlauer.com)

**Subject:** EAC Meeting PCOC, Engineering Committee Room 2

Please find attached the minutes of the July 10th meeting. Please advise if you have any revisions.  
Have a great day.

Regards,

Janice Peyton  
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**DRAFT: What natural and built environment features make for a good walk in  
Port Colborne, June 17, 2019**

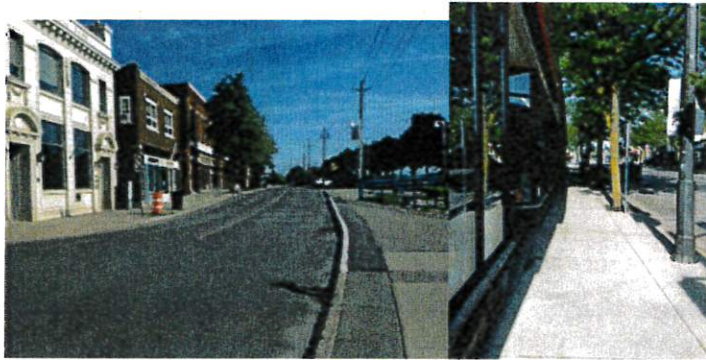
<b>From Kevin Lynch's <i>The Image of the City</i></b>	<b>Analysis and application</b>	<b>From Ann Sussman and Justin Hollander's <i>Cognitive Architecture: Designing for How we respond to the Built Environment</i></b>
<i>"Paths are the channels along which the observer moves"</i> (page 47, <i>The Image of the City</i> ).	Pictures #2, 3, 4 and 5 set out the importance of paths, edges and why edges matter.	<b>Edges matter:</b> The wall hugging trait. We tend to prefer to walk along well defined edges
<i>"Edges are the linear elements not used or considered as paths by the observer"</i> (page 47, <i>The Image of the City</i> ).	Picture #3 shows West Street adjacent to the canal which forms a linear element not considered as a path It also describes a symmetry and architectural complexity colour and form that is both interesting and attractive, perhaps the next example in Port Colborne. Picture #6 has no linear or defined edge and morphs into the street creating a pattern that inspires danger where traffic is concerned.	<b>Patterns matter:</b> Faces and spaces. Recognizable symmetry is important. This is also a function of how we identify and respond to perceived risk. In this sense the perception of fear is instantaneous and almost genetic in character.
<i>"Districts are the medium to large sections of the city, conceived of as having two-dimensional extent, which the observer mentally enters "inside of" and which are recognizable as having some common identifying character"</i> (ibid, Lynch).	Pictures #4 and 5 show sidewalks that mimic enclosed hallways that both provide symmetry and a safety. They also are characteristic of districts, #4 is downtown while #5 is a residential district.	<b>Shapes carry weight:</b> ordered bilateral symmetry (hierarchy), curves and complexity are important. We respond well to designs that make us comfortable.
<i>"Nodes are points, the strategic spots in a city into which an observer can enter, and which are the intensive foci to and from which he is traveling"</i> (ibid, Lynch).	We don't have good destinations to which people move except the Friday farmers market and City Hall. Steel Street School is a good destination where Charlotte Street is concerned , picture #5.	<b>Story telling is key:</b> we are wired for narrative, see Tennessee Ave.
<i>"Landmarks are another type of point reference, but in this case the observer does not enter within them, they are external"</i> (ibid, Lynch).	Picture #2 shows the importance of nature and form. Picture #1 shows the important of landmarks, story-telling (Tennessee Ave) and symmetry: it also shows the potential of shared space were vehicles, cycling and walking are concerned	<b>Nature is our context:</b> biophilia and biophilic design. Plants and trees make for forest bathing.





#1, Tennessee Avenue

#2, walking trail



#3, West Street

#4, Clarence Street



#5, Charlotte Street

#6, Linwood Ave.