



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
February 17th, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Council: Angie Desmarais

Staff: Derek Hemauer
Janice Peyton

Public Members: Paul Ruzycki
Beth Palma
Tim Hoyle
George McKibbon
Richard Lord
Deanna Lindblad
Jack Hellinga
Ryan Waines

Regrets: Barb Butters
Patty Sterling
Yvon Doucet

Guest: Patty Moss

1. Call to Order

Chair Beth Palma called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Angie Desmarais
Seconded by Beth Palma

That the minutes of November 25, 2015 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED.

3. Items Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Delaying Rural Roadside Cutting on Municipal Roads

Patty Moss provided a presentation regarding the results of delaying roadside cutting on municipal roads. A copy of the Summary Report of Port Colborne's Plan to Delay Roadside Mowing for 2015 is attached to the minutes. Patty will do a door to door distribution of the report in the areas of delayed roadside cutting. Jack recommended Patty's presentation go before Council and that

committee members attend for support. Patty will advise when she would like to attend and will provide the presentation to the clerk.

The scan code on the butterfly signs was discussed. Patty and Deanna will provide QR code information to be placed on the City website.

Jack suggested using the vegetation along the municipal drains that are linked to Killay Street as a magnet for windblown seeds and road salt by maintaining a 3 metre wide offset on each side of the drain. Deanna advised that this could easily be done through the Lake Erie North Shore Watershed Plan. Through this program Deanna has been working with the City along the municipal drains, plantings are being protected under the Drainage Act.

b) 2016 Budget Recycle Bins

Chris Lee is working with the Region of Niagara to get additional recycling bins at a reduced cost. Pending.

c) Dog Park Plantings

This item is closed as Deanna has advised that the NPCA no longer takes care of the dog park on behalf of the Region and also due to the fact that there is lack of water at this location.

d) Private Garden Signs

Private garden signs were discussed. The committee needs to create a slogan and a design in order to determine the cost of the signs. Butterflies and bees were suggested. Beth asked if anyone had ideas for the sign. Holding a contest to design/create a sign was suggested, possibly memos could go out to the school boards with details of the contest. Beth will work on this.

e) 2016 Goals

George provided a compilation of possible 2016 goals as submitted by committee members, grouped into categories of; streets, waste management, water, health, environmental design and at home and work. George suggested that, due to the lengthy list of goals, working groups be established so that members can meet separately and put together work plans for each section of goals. The listing of goals was partially reviewed and some actions commenced.

Streets

1. Traffic lights at T intersections – yields/stops emission output was discussed.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Angie Desmarais

That the 2016 Traffic Operations Study include a detailed look at every light controlled T intersection, to assist in continuous traffic control.

CARRIED.

Trees for businesses bordered by Steele, Clarence, Davis and Charlotte Street

Angie advised that trees for the business area may happen along with the downtown CIP. Trees in pots have been suggested and approved in the 2016 budget. All were in agreement that the tree rebate program should be advertised through social media. Angie volunteered to work on a social media advertisement for the rebate program.

Boulevard trees and forestry – George provided a handout of the value of boulevard trees (a copy is attached to the minutes). Beth, Deanna and George will find out why/how other cities can have boulevard trees. Derek explained that trees have been seen as a liability since the accident a few years ago. The committee discussed proposing to Council that the tree by-law be changed to allow planting certain trees on the boulevards and Deanna and George could speak on the value of the trees on the boulevard. Possibly the first meeting of Council in April. Deanna and George would ask for support of Council to compile a list of suitable boulevard trees as a way to reopen the discussion/decision on boulevard trees.

Waste Management

Jack raised the issue of waste to energy. The committee will discuss this further at a future meeting.

Water

Vulnerable Aquifers – Jack spoke regarding the meeting held by the NPCA in January 2016 regarding biodiversity offsetting. This issue was discussed in detail. The suggestion was made that the committee should present their thoughts on biodiversity offsetting to Council and ask that Regional Councillor Barrick be in attendance and speak to this issue at the Council meeting. George suggested that committee members brainstorm to come up with a list of concerns regarding biodiversity offsetting. Jack and George will work further on this issue and will have a motion ready for Council at the next committee meeting.

Health

The committee will promote tick awareness on social media.

The remaining 2016 goals were deferred for discussion at the next meeting of the committee.

4. **New/Other Business**

Nil.

5. **Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The next meeting will be on April 13 2016 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.