



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
March 11th, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Council: Barb Butters
Angie Desmarais

Staff: Derek Hemauer
Janice Peyton
Dave Sabo

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

Regrets: Patti Stirling
Chris Lee
Yvon Doucet
Ryan Waines

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 Jack Hellinga
Seconded by George McKibbon

That the minutes of February 11, 2015 be accepted as amended.
CARRIED.

3. Items Arising from Previous Minutes

- a) Niagara Restoration Council Request for Support,** Council request for Clarification of type of support (Blooms for Bees)

A copy of the letter in support of Blooms for Bees, written by Chair Beth Palma, was provided for committee review.

Moved by Paul Ruzycki
Seconded by Tim Hoyle

That the letter of support to the Niagara Restoration Council regarding Blooms for Bees be accepted and forwarded to the City Clerk to send to the Niagara Restoration Council.

CARRIED.

b) Niagara Restoration Programme funding for Ash Borer Tree Removal

Dave Sabo, City Gardener, provided an update regarding the Niagara Restoration Programme funding for trees affected by the Ash Borer Beetle. Dave advised that he has had an on-site meeting with the forester from the Conservation Authority who has been in contact with a few logging/saw mills and it appears that the saw mills are very busy and not interested in taking the trees down, therefore the removal of the dead trees will be dealt with in house, perhaps with chainsaw training for City staff. Dave advised that replanting/replacing of trees would be provided under the Niagara Restoration Funding Programme.

c) Delaying Rural Roadside Cutting on Municipal Roads Proposed Plan to Delay Roadside Cutting

The next steps regarding the plan to delay roadside cuttings was discussed. An information package to all properties that would be affected will be created and will include a questionnaire to be signed at the time of meeting with the property owners/residents as well as a hand-out with contact information should anyone have any questions/comments. Once the brochure is designed it can be sent to Janice to print for members to pick up and distribute door to door.

d) Membership – Deanna Lindblad

A copy of the memorandum request for consideration of Council to allow Deanna Lindblad continued membership on the committee as a voting member representing the NPCA on a trial basis was provided for information.

e) 2015 Budget

The 2015 Environmental Initiatives budget was discussed. Staff provided a review of the Environmental Initiatives g/l account.

Rebate programs were discussed. There have not been as many applications for tree rebates as was expected. Members will try to spread the word about the rebate programs on social media, Barb and Angie agreed to announce the details of the rebate programs at a Committee/Council meeting.

Moved by Beth Palma
Seconded by Paul Ruzycki

That the toilet rebate program be increased to \$6,000.00 for 2015 and that the number of toilet rebates allowed per household be increased to 3.
CARRIED.

The committee agreed on the following budget commitments for 2015.

Tree Rebate	\$120.75 (reinstate to \$750)
Toilet Rebate	\$6000.00 (increase to 3 per household)
Recycling Bins	\$4000.00
Recycling Collection	\$2500.00
Advertising	\$1000.00
Monarch Butterfly Expenses	\$500.00
Blooms for Bees	\$500.00 (in kind support)

Moved by Beth Palma
Seconded by Paul Ruzycki

That the proposed budget, as listed above, be accepted.
CARRIED.

Chris Lee will be asked for suggestions for locations to install additional recycle bins, considering the Region's pick up points. Pinecrest Road, the Marina and along the trail were locations listed for consideration.

4. New/Other Business

a) Painting of Ships While in the Canal

The committee discussed the painting of ships while in the canal. Deanna advised that it would be difficult to get paint on the list of threats as the active ingredient in the paint that would be a threat to drinking water would be minimal. Deanna will find out who the Seaway representative is on the Source Water Protection Committee. Angie will talk to some local companies to inquire about Seaway regulations and if they are being followed. Darlene Suddard, Environmental Compliance Supervisor, will be asked to attend a future meeting to speak about source water protection.

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by George McGibbon

That Council be asked to identify a staff member to contact the Seaway and ask that the City of Port Colborne and the Environmental Advisory Committee be notified whenever a permit to paint a ship while it is in the Canal is approved and the requirements of the permit.
CARRIED.

b) Spring Clean-up

This item has been deferred until the next meeting. Yvon Doucet has contacted Port Cares and has not yet received a reply.

c) Boulevard Trees

Allowing planting of trees on City boulevards was discussed. Derek advised that trees on boulevards can interfere with utilities, sidewalks, obstruct vision and can be a hazard to the public and therefore it is important that the trees are suitable for boulevard plantings. Engineering staff will investigate the possibility of modifying GPS to record sidewalk damage caused by trees. Dave Sabo added that trees planted on boulevards must be salt tolerant. Chris and Deanna will prepare a list of trees suitable for boulevards.

Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, ~~April 8~~, May 13, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
CARRIED.