



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
May 14th, 2014, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Council: Barb Butters

Staff: Janice Peyton
Chris Lee

Public Members: Beth Palma
Ryan Waines
Paul Ruzycki
Jack Hellinga
George McKibbon
Patti Stirling
Deanna Lindblad
Larry Fontaine

Regrets: Bea Kenny
Yvon Doucet
Richard Lord

A member of the public (Mark Robinson) was also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

1. Call to Order

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

Newly appointed committee members George McKibbon, Patti Stirling, Deanna Lindblad and Larry Fontaine were in attendance. All members introduced themselves.

2. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Beth Palma
Seconded by Jack Hellinga

That the minutes of March 6, 2014 be accepted as written.
CARRIED.

3. Items Arising from Previous Minutes

Recycling Containers in City Parks

Chris advised that he has a meeting arranged with the Region to visit the sites chosen for recycling containers to discuss collection pricing. Chris

advised that the Region may contribute to 2/3 of the cost of the receptacles. Free bins were discussed and Patti will gather more information regarding free bins at the next meeting. The chair will be asked to set the next meeting in June instead of July and then in September.

Earth Day

Barb advised that the inclement weather prohibited the original Earth Day clean up. The Optimist club cleaned up Killaly St. East from Pinecrest Rd. to Elizabeth St. It isn't known if the Reach Out Centre is planning to reschedule a clean up. Beth will follow up by contacting Andrea Birrell and Gina Murdoch (MYAC).

Budget

The 2014 budget was discussed.

2014 Budget available for Environmental Initiatives: \$21,000.

Allocated by the EAC:

Toilet Rebate Program	\$3500.
Tree Rebate Program	750.
Recycling Containers	6000.
Advertising	1000.

11,250.

Not allocated

\$ 9,750.

This will be discussed further at the next meeting since the cost of recycling containers in City Parks has not yet been finalized. Patti suggested we use the \$6000 that has been allocated to the recycling budget for additional bins. It was suggested that positive signage against littering be used along with the recycling bins. Chris has asked the gardener to come up with suitable fruit trees for the tree rebate program, Deanna offered to help with the species list.

Information Item re: Correspondence to Waste Diversion Ontario expressing concerns regarding the Proposal from CALL2Recycle for the recycling of single-use spent batteries

The memo from A. Grigg, City Clerk regarding the above referenced correspondence was provided for information. A copy of the memo is attached.

Information Item re: Resolution Opposing the Construction of the Nuclear Waste Repository in the Great Lakes Basin

George McKibbin declared a conflict of interest regarding this item.

A copy of a letter from A. Grigg, City Clerk, to Prime Minister Stephen Harper regarding the above referenced item was provided for information. A copy of the letter is attached.

4. **New/Other Business**

GMO Labelling (Paul Ruzycski)

Paul raised the issue of GMO Labelling and asking that all local grocery stores provide labelling that tells consumers if the products in their stores contain GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms). Paul will research this item and provide further information at a future meeting.

Painting of Ships While in the Canal (Paul Ruzycski)

Painting of ships while in the Canal was discussed. It is important that Ministry standards are adhered to when this is being done and the Federal Ministry must be aware when this is happening. George will follow up with Brian Wright at Niagara Peninsula Water Source Protection Agency.

Milkweed (Barb Butters)

Barb provided information regarding the David Suzuki Foundation's #GotMilkweed campaign. Milkweed is the only plant that monarch butterflies lay their eggs on and the primary source of food for monarch caterpillars. Scientists throughout North America have identified milkweed planting as the most important action people can take to help support threatened monarch populations. Deanna advised that milkweed is being removed from the noxious weed list. Deanna will send information that could be put on the City website and in the City Newsletter, Chris will mention this to the gardener.

Moved by Barb Butters

Seconded by Paul Ruzycski

That if allowed, information be placed on the City website in promotion of milkweed.

CARRIED.

4-Way Stops (Jack Hellinga)

Jack raised the issue of 4-way stop intersections being a waste of energy. Also on the East side of the Main Street Bridge, when the bridge is raised, Westbound traffic can turn left, however on Welland Street traffic heading North has to stop. Jack commented that members should be raising issues such as this if they notice them. George commented that before any requests for changes are made the safety of pedestrians and cyclists must be considered.

Household Hazardous Waste Days (Paul Ruzycski)

Paul advised that there is only one household hazardous waste day in Port Colborne in 2014. Chris advised that all household hazardous waste days are open to residents from any area municipality within Niagara region. Ryan will check which materials are accepted by Raw Materials Corporation and will email the committee.

Solar Arrays (Paul Ruzycki)

Solar arrays were briefly discussed.

Assistance for Private Landowners to Remove Ash Trees (Deanna Lindblad)

Deanna advised of a new program for private landowners through the Niagara Restoration Council to provide funding for the removal of Ash Trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The focus is on public and private properties within the Niagara Region, specifically unhealthy large forest parcels. Funding is limited to approximately 20 lands a year. Deanna will forward additional information for the newsletter and website. Private landowners qualify for the program if they have a wood lot. Individual tree loss/replacement is not covered.

Condition of Seaway Property along the Weir (Patti Stirling)

Patti expressed concern for the condition of the Seaway property along the Weir. Patti said that there is so much litter it looks like a landfill. Patti has contacted the Seaway about this and nothing has ever been cleaned up. Barb asked if this could be taken care of through Property Standards. Chris will mention this to Property Standards and inquire about the contact person for this issue. Barb and Patti will also work on this further, Barb will notify the ward Councillors. Patti advised that at Robin Hood near the Omer drainage ditch there is the same situation, littered with televisions etc.

5. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Moved by Barb Butters

Seconded by Paul Ruzycki

That with no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED.