



**Meeting
Environmental Advisory Committee
November 8, 2017, 6:00 p.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Council: Angie Desmarais
Yvon Doucet

Staff: Derek Hemauer
Janice Peyton

Public Members: George McKibbin
Beth Palma
Ryan Waines
Patti Stirling
Jack Hellinga
Tim Hoyle
Paul Ruzycki
Kerry Royer

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Yvon Doucet
Seconded by Tim Hoyle

That the agenda dated November 8, 2017 be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED.

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Approval / Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Angie Desmarais

That the minutes of September 13, 2017 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

5. Items Arising from Previous Minutes

a) Recycle Bins

Derek advised that Chris Lee is in agreement with the proposed West Street locations for recycle bins, near the Pilot House and closer to the Clarence Street Bridge. The Library can be considered as a location for recycling bins after construction improvements are completed. Angie advised that the Active Transportation Committee will choose a site for a bike repair station and committee members thought coordinating the recycle bin location with the repair station would be wise. Derek will work on timelines; most preferred location is the corner of West Street at the bridge. Angie suggested the recycling bin for the Library be considered during the design phase of the Library improvements.

b) “No Littering” signs on trails

Derek is waiting on pricing for smaller signs, similar to the signs the Region has installed. Angie suggested signage be coordinated with the Active Transportation Committee. Angie will advise Derek of the next Active Transportation Committee meeting. Illegal dumping should be reported when it is witnessed. Derek advised that the light at the entrance to Derek’s Point is now working as Patti was concerned that the light was out, as there is a lot of littering at this location.

c) Boulevard Trees

Kerry advised that she cannot find any other Municipality that has a “no planting on the boulevard by-law”. Kerry will obtain a list of trees from the City of Welland and from Oakville also, as suggested by Jack. Angie will raise the issue of boulevard trees (needed to beautify the City) at the upcoming Strategic Planning sessions. Committee members gave the following priorities to Angie, for the strategic planning session.

- Bike paths
- Recycle bins
- Trees (repeal the boulevard tree bylaw)
- Waterfront beautification
- Boat Nerds (the Elliot property could be enhanced for tourists)
- The ship in the canal that is to be dismantled could be made into a floating B&B. (Angie did not think permission would be granted for this)

d) Community Shred-it Day/E Waste Day

This item will be deferred until Earth Day discussions. Patti has two company's that are interested in providing this service.

e) Air Quality

George advised that he has obtained access to the loan of a machine complete with the instructions for use. Once information is gathered it can be mapped out for us by the MOE. George would like to take the training instructions for operation of the machine, along with a couple of other committee members. Angie thought that July would be a good time for testing, George would like to do some testing now. Patti would like to see some testing take place while the ships are running. Jack offered to take the training with George. The committee will decide later on a donation, as this machine is being provided to the committee free of charge. The committee briefly discussed the odour caused by the marijuana grow-ops.

f) NPCA Questions

Kerry advised that she is still waiting on answers to the questions the committee sent to the NPCA in 2016.

The Wetland Protection and Biodiversity Offsetting paper that was presented to Council at the January 23rd, 2017 meeting was referred to the Planning Department, however Planning has not yet reported back on this item. Angie will talk to the Director of Planning early in 2018. Jack advised that he has been approached by a Mayor of another municipality that is interested in the details of the response form the Planning department. Jack also advised that a response was submitted to the NPCA regarding the Sourcewater Protection Plan and that there has not been a reply as of yet. Kerry will follow up on this.

6. New/Other Business

a) 2018 Budget

The committee decided on the following items for the 2018 Environmental Initiatives budget.

- Toilet Rebate \$4500.00, with changes to the toilet rebate program of 2 per household (currently 3 per household) and flush capacity of 4L or less (currently 6L or less)
Note: this item to be discussed further at the next meeting
- Community Green Art Show \$250.00
- Up to \$2000 to maintain recycle bins currently in place

b) Drain Improvements

Jack and Beth attended an Environment and Climate Change Canada Drain Improvements meeting. Jack gave a synopsis of the meeting. Jack advised that there is a push to change the drainage act to reduce impacts on the drain outlets. Currently there are no controls on the natural filtration from the farmland to municipal drains. The committee thought that it would be beneficial to invite the Drainage Superintendent to one of the EAC meetings to discuss this topic. George asked that Jack record his comments and forward them to Environment Canada and to the Drainage Superintendent. Derek advised that he spoke to the Drainage Superintendent regarding this item and that the response was that we need the funding to do the improvements, not for additional studies.

c) Wyldewood Road Drainage

Paul advised that he has been asked by area neighbours about the lack of drainage on Wyldewood Road and that there are a lot of dead trees that are in the drains that are likely contributing to the poor drainage in that area. Derek will advise staff and have them look into this.

d) EAC Comments on City Developments

Jack raised the issue of the EAC committee providing comments on planning proposals for developments within the city. George feels that the committee does not have the technical expertise to comment on planning items, that it is not the mandate of this committee and that the committee takes on a lot of responsibility if they are obligated to make comment. Further discussion is required.

e) Eco - Tourism

Kerry suggested that the committee consider becoming involved in eco-tourism, birding tourism for example. Patti commented that in Port Colborne hunting is allowed in some bird watching areas.

7. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be on January 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.