



**Meeting  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
September 14, 2016, 6:00 p.m.**

**The following were in attendance:**

Council: Angie Desmarais (Portion of the meeting)

Staff: Derek Hemauer  
Janice Peyton (Portion of the meeting)  
Chris Lee

Public Members: George McKibbon  
Beth Palma  
Tim Hoyle  
Ryan Waines  
Patti Stirling  
Deanna Lindblad  
Jack Hellinga

Regrets: Barb Butters  
Yvon Doucet  
Richard Lord  
Paul Ruzycki

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**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 Tim Hoyle  
Seconded by Jack Hellinga

That the minutes of May 11, 2015 be accepted as presented.  
CARRIED.

**3. Items Arising from Previous Minutes**

**a) Recycle Bins - Chris**

Chris advised that two recycle bins have been received and will be installed at Centennial Park as soon as the concrete pads have been poured.

**b) Pollinator Garden Signs**

The committee discussed how to distribute the 50 pollinator garden signs that are now available. A pledge form will be created for those

residents that pledge to plant a pollinator garden or improve their existing pollinator garden. There will be no charge for the sign, cost of the sign is \$42 ea. and donations will be accepted and greatly appreciated. The pledge form will provide an email address for residents, should they wish to send a photograph of their pollinator garden. Photos submitted will be posted on the City Website or in the City Newsletter. DeAnna offered to provide assistance, her NPCA contact information is listed on the pledge form, for those residents requiring assistance or advice with their pollinator garden. Beth and Tim will work on the pledge forms. Jack will be volunteering at the green tent this weekend and will have the signs available.

Deanna noted that the pollinator garden at Centennial Park has been successful, photos can be seen on the Niagara Restoration Council website.

**c) “No Littering” signs on trails**

This item is pending. Chris Lee is working on this.

**d) Better Organic Waste Participation**

Chris gave history of the City of Port Colborne compost facility and statistics. The committee would like to see a competition between municipalities. Chris will provide more information at the next meeting.

**e) Boulevard Trees**

Much discussion took place regarding boulevard trees. George explained the natural heritage approach taken by the City of Hamilton for tree planting and thought that the same approach could be taken in Port Colborne by collecting information from the Planning Department regarding population, age and income of residents.

The next steps in promoting the planting of trees on boulevards must be decided. Chris commented that someone is needed to “champion” this project. A case must be made in favour of tree planting on boulevards in comparison to the maintenance and liability costs associated with trees on boulevards. New laws need to be brought to Ontario to eliminate the legal costs, for example not to be able to sue the City if you trip and fall on a sidewalk.

Deanna is most concerned for the downtown canopy in the BIA areas and commented that it is important to plant trees now and that tree planting cannot wait until the by-law is changed.

The following suggestions were made to move this item forward:

- Prioritize the areas that are beneficial for trees.

- Identify the proper species of trees to be planted.
- New plans of subdivision could call for sidewalks on one side of the street and treed boulevards on the other side.
- A proposal could be brought forward that is experimental and selective, for example, a tree planting an area where there are no sidewalks.

Deanna and George will draft a recommendation to Council with a list of recommended trees for planting and will forward to the committee for review.

**f) Motion Sensor Light Switches and Programmable Thermostats**

Beth advised she has looked into the costs for subsidizing sensor light switches and programmable thermostats. Jack thought that coupons may already be available for this and asked that the committee investigate. If no coupons are available the committee will propose a motion to subsidize sensors and thermostats at the next meeting.

**g) Community Shred-it Day/E Waste Day**

Patty spoke of the large scale community garbage/salvage pick-up that took place years ago in Port Colborne where anything left at the end of the event was taken to the landfill. Patty also spoke about the Meridian shred-it community event. Patty will follow up on community shredding. Deanna proposed having a shred-it and e-waste day. Tim will see if there is any interest in arranging for this through the volunteer fire department.

Jack suggested adding Rain Barrels and subsequent subsidies to the next environmental initiatives budget request. Chris will check with the rain barrel company that the committee worked with previously for costs.

**h) Wetland Protection and Biodiversity Offsetting Discussion Paper**

Deanna declared a conflict of interest with regard to this item and refrained from participating in this discussion.

Jack asked that “Biodiversity Offsetting” be removed from the title of this document. Jack said that 90% of the comments in the paper are supported in “Draft: A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030”. Jack believes this document proves a 2:1 or 3:1 formula cannot be used for biodiversity offsetting. Jack advised that he is looking for a document editor to make the document/paper more cohesive.

George spoke to page 14 of the meeting package regarding the NPCA and wetland biodiversity offsetting priorities that have been identified for the updating of the Conservation Authorities Act. George recommended the committee propose that Council adopt the five priorities. George will prepare a report for Council consideration.

#### **4. New/Other Business**

##### **a) Toxic Algae Bloom in Lake Erie**

This item was briefly discussed, no further discussion or action is required.

##### **b) Air Quality (George)**

George provided the Port Colborne Air Quality Study May – April 2013 for discussion. Patty said she would like to see air quality sampling during the shipping season and during the non-shipping season. George would like to ask the MOE if air quality monitoring could be provided and implemented in Port Colborne. George will speak to the Director of Planning and Development about mobile monitoring opportunities.

##### **c) Jungbunzlauer Project Funding for 2017**

Ryan advised that the deadline for the Jungbunzlauer project funding for 2017 was September 15, 2015. Submissions for proposals have been received from Port Cares and from St. James Anglican Church. Ryan gave the criteria of the funding and suggested the EAC consider applying to JBL for Funding in 2018.

##### **d) Request for Recycling Volunteers for Flavours Event**

Flavours of Niagara takes place on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. A request was received from Community Services for volunteers for the green tent. Jack, Deanna and Angie have volunteered and will coordinate with Gina Murdoch, Special Events Coordinator.

##### **e) Environmental Bill of Rights and Regulations**

George provided a Discussion Guide to Review of Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights and Regulations and Consideration of Ontarians Environmental Rights for information.

George offered to put together a short report to answer questions for the next meeting.

**f) Canada 150 Anniversary**

Angie asked members to consider ways in which the EAC can participate in the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada in 2017. Angie recommended the Canada150 website for more information and suggestions.

**5. Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The next meeting will be on November 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

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