



## Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on May 4, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

**Committee Members Present:** Sharon Collingwood – Vice-Chair Presiding, Craig Merkley, Ken Clarke, Councillor Larry McCabe, Vanni Azzano, Anita Jacobsen, Felicity Sutcliffe, Geoff Krauter, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

**Staff Present:** Sadaf Ghalib – Climate Change Programs Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Jane Mitchell

**Regrets:** Ian Morton, Emily Skelding – Waste Reduction Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

Sharon Collingwood, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

**2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None declared.

**3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – April 6, 2023**

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

**THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated April 6, 2023, be adopted as presented. Carried**

**4. Working Group Updates:** Ecological, Carbon Reduction and I.C.I. Waste Reduction

I.C.I. Waste Reduction

Sharon Collingwood provided the following updates on projects the I.C.I Waste Reduction working group is focusing on:

- Sharon Collingwood thanked Felicity Sutcliffe and Sadaf Ghalib for all their work on the Green Recognition Program and the Earth Day and Council presentations to all the recipients.
- The E&E Committee previously passed a motion requesting Council consider joining the Canada Plastic Act and a review of the by-laws currently in place. The working group would like to re-visit these requests to keep it moving forward. Councillor Burbach stated that there is not currently a plastics reduction by-law in place for Stratford, therefore researching other by-laws that municipalities have in place would be beneficial. She suggested that Emily Skelding, Waste Reduction Coordinator, could give the Committee some advice on the best plan to move forward on this. Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Program Manager, stated that there are Provincial and Federal regulations that will commence in May 2024 that would put the onus on the producers. Councillors Burbach and McCabe noted that changing by-laws at this stage may be redundant if Provincial and Federal changes will be made to address plastic reduction in 2024.
- The working group has had two opportunities to have a table to distribute information at the Home Show and the Earth Day Street Party Event. The working group would like to do one more event in the Fall.
- They would like to inquire if the Finance Department would consider including information from E&E in the property tax mailings they send out to property owners. Emily Skelding, Waste Reduction Coordinator, will inquire if there are restrictions to having information included.
- The working group is still researching food waste apps. They intend to contact the Local to inquire about food waste initiatives. St. Paul's Church would be another good contact for information on food waste as they do many food events. Councillor McCabe will contact local restaurants to inquire about practices and using the larger green bins.

### Ecological

Craig Merkley provided the following updates on projects the Ecological working group is focusing on:

- The working group set up a table at the Earth Day Street Party Event showing the native grass planting projects, information on the issue of side trails from bikes in the TJ Dolan area and information on phragmites and the work being done on eradicating invasive species. Anita Jacobsen noted that many of the invasive species, such as phragmites, are brought in on dirty equipment that has been used on other sites.
- They were part of an organized weed-pull in partnership with ReLeaf Stratford and the UTRCA along the crib walls and river shoreline. They are considering

doing a similar event in TJ Dolan for garlic mustard later in May. Felicity Sutcliffe added that it was a great opportunity to work alongside the Community Services summer students and teach them about the weeds and invasive species.

- The native grass plugs that E&E purchased will be arriving this month for planting.
- Researching planting a native oak tree demonstration site with the ability to host birds, insects, and bees.
- Sharon Collingwood noted the beaver has re-appeared in the river and is close to a monitoring station. Vanni Azzano stated that it will be addressed by the Ministry.

### Carbon Reduction

Sharon Collingwood provided the following updates on projects the Carbon Reduction working group is focusing on:

- E&E previously passed a motion requesting Council undertake a formal review of the secondary plans and make recommendations on revisions based on a climate lens. Councillor Burbach stated that the Planners in the Development Services Division would review the secondary plans, however they are currently extremely short-staffed to undertake this project. She suggested that the working group could review the secondary plans and provide feedback on certain ones. These suggestions could also be submitted on Engage Stratford as individual citizens as part of the public engagement portion of the Official Plan review.
- There have been previous discussions on retrofit programs and possibly holding a passive house webinar. There is a one-hour introductory webinar available. Councillor Burbach suggested that the information on the webinar would be a great recommendation to make to SABA for their members. Councillor McCabe suggested that it might also be of interest to local realtors. Sharon Collingwood will inquire on the cost of the introductory webinar.
- Now that the Official Plan review has begun, Sharon Collingwood suggested that E&E could possibly meet with who has been contracted to do the review to provide input. Councillor Burbach noted that E&E representative would likely be part of a focus group or stakeholder meeting during the process. Councillor Burbach will inquire with staff.

## **5. Climate Change Programs Manager's Update – Sadaf Ghalib**

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, provided the following updates:

- Ms. Ghalib reported that this year's Green Recognition Program was a success. All recipients were presented certificates at the Earth Day Street Party or the

April 24, 2023, Council meeting. She is anticipating even more interest in the program next year and would like to see an increase in the time period that people can submit their applications.

- The Earth Day tree planting event was cancelled on April 22, 2023, due to inclement weather. Grade 9 students from SDSS planted over 100 trees on April 27, 2023 in TJ Dolan. She thanked Vanni Azzano for all his help with this event.
- The Earth Day Street Party was great in terms of getting feedback from the public with in-person sessions that will be incorporated into the staff report along with the online public engagement developing the Community Emissions Action Plan.

## **6. Update from Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) – Felicity Sutcliffe**

Felicity Sutcliffe provided the following update:

- ATAC is organizing a kickoff event for Bike Month on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from 9-12 p.m. The event is being held at Upper Queen's Park. The Park Patrol will be there to talk about bike safety, Cycle Stratford is doing a family ride and providing gift bags. Please let Felicity Sutcliffe know if you are available to volunteer, which will most likely be manning barricades at street closures.
- Staff attended their meeting to discuss absent sidewalks in the City. They provided maps of the absent sidewalks and explained how staff decides the priority areas and what budget funds are available. Some of the high priority areas that have been identified were areas near the intermediate and secondary schools, the area around the hospital, as well as Oak Street and Willow Street. Sharon Collingwood inquired about sidewalks being removed on certain streets. Councillor Burbach explained that if a residential road that has two smaller sidewalks is being redone, they will redo the new road with one wider accessible sidewalk.

## **7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

7.1 Earth Day Activities Update – Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager  
As noted above.

7.2 Community Emissions Action Plan – Online Public Engagement – Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager

Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, reminded E&E Committee members that the online public engagement for the Community Emissions Action Plan is now available and will be open until May 12, 2023. She has reached out to many organizations to ensure that many people participate. She has also sent out some kitchen table kits to some individuals and students to

complete to gain additional feedback. She encouraged E&E members to also participate. Once the survey closes, staff will review all the information and proceed with the development of the plan. She will also be able to report on how many participants there were once the survey closes.

- 7.3 Purchase of Large Green Bins for ICI Sector – Emily Skelding  
Deferred to next meeting.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Accessibility Training**

Staff informed Committee members that City of Stratford volunteers, including members of advisory committees, are required to complete training related to accessibility in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. To meet this requirement, the Clerk will be circulating training materials to review and then you will be asked to complete a form stating you completed the training.

The Clerk will be circulating materials in different formats such as reading a brochure or watching a video so that all volunteers can complete the training. This training is mandatory and there will be strict deadlines for completion.

Members were advised to contact the Clerk with any questions or if they required assistance.

### **8.2 Climate Momentum Presentation to Council**

Sharon Collingwood reported that the Climate Momentum Group is planning an upcoming presentation to Council. She inquired if E&E should review the information and provide input. Members noted that they are directly proposing many recommendations to Council and that E&E would not necessarily be part of this process.

## **9. Upcoming Events**

- SDSS Annual Plant Sale – Saturday, May 13, 2023
- ATAC Bike Event (Upper Queen's Park) – June 3, 2023

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the E&E Committee will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

**THAT the May 4, 2023, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 4:03 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:18 P.M.