



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on October 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Ian Morton – Chair Presiding, Sharon Collingwood, Craig Merkley, Ken Clarke, Anita Jacobsen, Felicity Sutcliffe, Geoff Krauter, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

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

Regrets: Councillor Larry McCabe, Vanni Azzano

1. Call to Order

Ian Morton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes – September 7, 2023

Motion by Geoff Krauter

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated September 7, 2023, be adopted as amended. Carried

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

Ecological:

Craig Merkley provided the following report from the Ecological Working Group:

- The working group re-iterated the need for a master plan that can be used as an umbrella for issues such as invasive species, the ecological health of the TJ Dolan area, etc. They will make arrangements to meet with the Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery to discuss how to move the creation of a master plan forward and possible funding options. Geoff Krauter suggested an "Ecological Master Plan" to encompass all issues. The working group has been working on collecting examples of master plans from other municipalities.
- They have identified the need for signage on some of the projects that have been completed recently, such as the native grass plantings. They are also investigating a sandwich board sign that the group can take with them to use while they are working on projects or doing a planting so that citizens know what they are doing and who they are. Sharon Collingwood suggested a QR code could be added with further information and links.
- He has been keeping track of volunteer hours this year and so far there have been 140 total volunteer hours.
- The increased pressure on the TJ Dolan Area due to human activity has greatly impacted the area. They have suggested a "Friends of" group could possibly be formed to assist with the work and become a community champion. Felicity Sutcliffe suggested "Friends of Our Natural Areas", to assist with educating citizens.
- Councillor Burbach reported that she received a thank you today for the great work that E&E did planting the native grasses and their efforts are appreciated.

Carbon Reduction:

Sharon Collingwood provided the following update from the Carbon Reduction Working Group:

- The September 17, 2023 fossil fuels march was a success and she estimates that there were approximately 100 people participating.

- They are continuing to work on suggestions of local vendors and inspectors to help assist citizens find businesses that can help them navigate environmental changes, such as upgrading to heat pumps.
- Councillor Burbach suggested researching Stratford's current by-laws and identifying any barriers regarding geothermal heating, heat pumps, etc. Sadaf Ghalib, Climate Change Programs Manager, clarified that there are parameters regarding geothermal installations within the City of Stratford, as the depth of them could possibly affect aquifers. There is not a specific by-law regarding heat pumps and geothermal, however there are by-laws regarding how deep you can dig. Members will research parameters and various options on geothermal.
- She will share a link to a podcast on the "Pocket" neighbourhood in Toronto. The entire neighbourhood has been retrofitted.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction:

Sharon Collingwood provided the following update from the I.C.I. Waste Reduction Working Group:

- It was questioned whether the Plastics Pact went to Committee in 2022. Staff advised they will review and provide an update. She suggested that with legislation coming, the working group could prepare and have their research ready for when the time comes. She will reach out to the Office of the Minister of the Environment and the Retail Council of Canada to assist with their research.

5. Climate Change Program Manager's Update – Sadaf Ghalib

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

- The Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) will be listed for consideration at the October 10, 2023 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting. It will be listed on the agenda for public viewing, and because it is a corporate focused plan, it does not have a public comment component associated with it. The final plan will be brought to Council for consideration and will be a great opportunity for the City to take a lead on climate action and carbon reduction. CEEP has been recognized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partner for Climate Protection Program. The plan has achieved three milestones that pertain to corporate generated emissions:

1. Creating a baseline emissions inventory;
2. Setting emissions reduction targets;
3. Developing a local climate action plan;

Moving forward, staff will be working on the remaining milestones:

4. Implementing the plan once it has been approved by Council;
 5. Monitoring and recording results.
- Staff has received approval from Council to proceed with the procurement of (14) hybrid vehicles and (1) electric van. The electric van is anticipated to be in use in November. Staff is also working on a charger to be installed for the van. All power tools and equipment, where feasible, will be battery operated. For example, a chainsaw, blower and hole saw that are all battery powered, have recently been purchased for City staff use.
 - The development of the Community Climate Action Plan is underway and items have been identified using the baseline and the emissions profile. Staff are working on these deficiencies. It is anticipated that a comprehensive measurement of emissions will bring up the baseline. She will provide a progress update in the future. The public will be able to provide additional feedback once the next draft is complete, she anticipates during the first quarter of 2024. She will provide a presentation to E&E for members to provide feedback.
 - The City has recently provided notice to agencies and other stakeholders of the City's Official Plan review. There is a public meeting on October 30, 2023 and is being held in pursuant to Subsection 26.3 of the Planning Act to formally initiate the process of reviewing and updating the Official Plan. The meeting will be held in-person at Stratford City Hall in the Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Building and Planning Services Department.
 - Staff have been following up on the Plastics Pact and it is still in the process to be delegated. She will bring it to the Committee's attention as soon as there is an update.

Ian Morton stated he feels that E&E could lend their support to the Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan at the October 11th meeting and will inquire about being a delegate. Sharon Collingwood offered to help plan for the meeting and Felicity Sutcliffe volunteered to attend the meeting.

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

Felicity Sutcliffe provided the following update:

- A guest speaker from Cycle Stratford attended their meeting to report on their priorities for 2024. Priorities included completing an update on the report card to be able to track progress, signage along the Festival route and getting started on the quick-start projects.
- ATAC set their budget for 2024 and looking ahead at additional and upgraded signage for trails.
- There is a move to lower speed limits on some streets in Stratford. Britannia Street now has 40 km/hour signs and City staff are adding bollards along the centre of streets to discourage speeding.
- ATAC's recommendations for sidewalk priorities were accepted for budget consideration in 2024.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None noted.

8. New Business

8.1 New Green Dog Waste Bags – Anita Jacobsen

Anita Jacobsen inquired about the new dog waste bags and receptacles that are now in Stratford. Councillor Burbach stated that the RNG facility that the waste is being sent to is a different location than the rest of the green bin program. The facility that accepts the dog waste, accepts both the waste and the bags to be processed.

8.2 Climate Action Incentive Payments – Councillor Burbach

At the October 10, 2023 Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Committee meeting, Councillor Burbach intends to put forth a motion regarding Climate Action Incentive Payments and suggests that the Federal Government earmark 10% of the funding collected to go towards municipal climate action incentives. The Climate Change Programs Manager will assist Councillor Burbach with some additional facts from other Provinces that could be emulated here in Ontario,

such as the successful model used in British Columbia. Municipalities will need to have a plan and strategy in place to receive funding.

9. Upcoming Events

- 2024 Pride Events

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the E&E Committee will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Sharon Collingwood

THAT the October 5, 2023, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:21 P.M.