



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on January 18, 2024 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, Vanni Azzano, Councillor Larry McCabe

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Sadaf Ghalib – Manager of Climate Change Programs, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

Also Present: Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

Ian Morton, 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 – December 7, 2023

Motion by Anita Jacobsen

Seconded by Councillor McCabe

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

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

Ecological:

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

- the invoice for the Invasive Species Management Plan not being paid in full as the three phases have not been completed;
- phase I having been completed prior to the new year and the Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery requesting the Invasive Species Centre to re-issue a new invoice to reflect only the payment for Phase I which will be funded from the 2023 E&E budget;
- the Invasive Species Management Plan identifying components that can be acted upon and an idea being to create an information flyer for landowners who are adjacent to the T.J. Dolan area with regard to side trails, invasive species, trash accumulating, etc.; and
- invasive species pulls in the spring being planned.

I.C.I. Waste Reduction:

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

- the working group having added a new member who works in plastic recycling, who brings a great deal of knowledge and ideas to the group;
- there being plans to move forward on updating the City's green events guidelines;
- the previous checklists having been removed from the City's website, as they did not meet the accessibility requirements and are now out of date;
- the working group creating an updated checklist that can be posted on the website and provided with event applications;
- municipalities being contacted to see what they are including on their checklists and information being added about Stratford's green bin program information;
- the Corporate Communications Specialist having been contacted to discuss adding the checklist to the website and working together on this project; and

- it being suggested that a link be placed on the website to “Green Issues” in a visible location on the home page that will take visitors to anything posted relating to this topic.

Carbon Reduction:

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

- they are continuing to contribute material for an information package for people who are looking for information on heat pump installations; and
- they have had two recent presentations: one on the new SDSS Eco Club Community Garden and another presentation on a residential heat pump installation.

5. Update from the Climate Change Program Manager – Sadaf Ghalib

The Climate Change Program Manager provided a written update that was shared with E&E. Highlights of the update included:

- the call for applications being open for the 2024 Green Recognition Program until March 15, 2024;
- the E&E Committee being requested to help amplify the message across their networks and the community;
- the City leading communications through a news release, posters, social media, radio, and the Town Crier;
- a selection committee being formed from the E&E Committee to review applications and conduct interviews/site visits if applicable between March 18 – April 12, 2024;
- there being an opportunity to volunteer with Vic West Manufacturing for a cleanup activity at either Avon River or TJ Dolan Natural Area during April 2024; and
- members being able to provide feedback on the City’s Strategic Priorities until January 23, 2024).

Councillor McCabe noted that consideration could be given to an “events category” as part of the selection process. An increased number of organizations are striving to go green when putting on events and this might be encouraging for future event organizers. Ian Morton suggested that events could possibly fall under the new tourism category that has been created this year.

Ian Morton suggested E&E members reach out as soon as possible to the Climate Change Programs Manager if they are available to assist with the Green Recognition Selection Committee or the cleanup activities. Sharon Collingwood noted that reviewing the submissions for the Green Recognition program is time consuming and could possibly be streamlined with detailed applications.

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

Felicity Sutcliffe advised the ATAC is continuing to work on various signage throughout Stratford in 2024.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

None noted.

8. New Business

None noted.

9. Upcoming Events

- Tree Power Event – April 13, 2024
- Earth Day – April 22, 2024
- 2024 Pride Events

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the E&E Committee will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Vanni Azzano

THAT the January 18, 2024, Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:05 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:03 P.M.