



Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee (E&E) was held on March 6, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W, Stratford ON

Committee Members Present: Mike Sullivan – Chair Presiding, Felicity Sutcliffe, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Zach Kritzer, Anna Stratton, Linda Wakenhut, Craig Merkley, Ken Clarke, Julia Schneider, Geoff Krauter

Staff Present: Emily Skelding – Supervisor of Waste Operations, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Councillor Larry McCabe, Vanni Azzano, Anita Jacobsen, Sadaf Ghalib – Manager of Climate Change Programs

1. Call to Order

Mike Sullivan, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgment and a moment of silent reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Conduct Statement

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Anna Stratton

Seconded by Julia Schneider

THAT the minutes from the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting dated February 6, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Working Group Updates:

Ecological:

Craig Merkley provided the following update from the Ecological working group:

- Garden Stratford has donated \$2,000.00 to purchase additional native plants for T.J. Dolan;
- No update on the Invasive Species Council grants;
- A representative from Trent University previously reached out regarding biological control experiments or demonstrations. Anita Jacobsen followed up and the University is still interested in the project for T.J. Dolan targeting garlic mustard this year;
- The working group has met with Quin Malott, Parks & Forestry Manager, to review projects and keep up to date with each other's plans;
- The UTRCA website will now have a button that people can click to donate a tree as part of the Tree Power initiative;
- UTRCA GIS staff is working on mapping to be included on the T.J. Dolan entrance sign.

Councillor Burbach inquired if members had heard about the Trees for Life - Hero Forests project. Councillor Burbach has been sent the information and will forward it to Craig Merkley.

5. Supervisor of Waste Operations Update

Emily Skelding, Supervisor of Waste Operations noted the curbside waste collection survey is now posted on Engage Stratford and has over 700 responses in the first two days. The survey closes on March 14, 2025 and the data collected will be used to inform Council on the new waste collection contract that the City will be entering into late 2026.

Mike Sullivan inquired how residents find out about the surveys. Ms. Skelding stated that they advertised the survey on social media, the City's website, radio and the town crier in the newspaper. Councillor Burbach also reposted the information on Facebook.

Ms. Skelding noted staff will know by the end of March what is going to happen with the convenience depot at the Stratford landfill and whether the new blue box program

will partner with the City to continue with the depot. Additionally, a recent scan of the Stratford landfill confirmed that the landfill has another 19 years left in its lifespan.

6. Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) Update

Vicky Trotter reported on the following from the February 26, 2025 ATAC Meeting:

- a working group has been formed and will consult with members of the BIA on Car-Free Friday initiatives;
- the Festival Cycle Route working group is continuing to work on designing signage and finalizing where the signs will be placed;
- missing sidewalk links were discussed and a list of locations that ATAC deemed priorities were forwarded to staff;
- possible additional locations for pedestrian crossovers were discussed and further discussion will take place with Engineering staff next month;
- staff is investigating the feasibility of bike lockers to be installed in the downtown core.

Mike Sullivan requested if Vicky Trotter could forward the City's current list of missing sidewalk links to E&E members.

7. E&E Committee Motions Update

Vicky Trotter provided the committee with a list of outstanding motions. There are no updates to report since last meeting.

Councillor Burbach stated that consultants are working on a discussion paper that will come to Council regarding green development standards. Councillor Burbach's e-mail regarding green development standards has been forwarded to the consultants letting them know that Council wants to hear about options. When the issue comes up in Council, Councillor Burbach can make a motion requesting green development standards are included. The discussion paper is scheduled to be completed sometime in April 2025.

Councillor Burbach also attended a Climate Caucus meeting run by FCM for elected officials. She had an opportunity to discuss green development standards with other members and some of the legalities other municipalities are facing. There are tool kits

now available to help guide staff and Council should they move forward with green development standards.

8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

8.1 Climate Conversations Update

Felicity Sutcliffe reported that the Climate Conversation event regarding waste is being held tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. The next event is scheduled for March 27, 2025 and the topic is natural environments with the Master Gardeners presenting on pollinator pathways. Ms. Sutcliffe inquired if an invasive species display could also be included at the March 27th event. Ms. Sutcliffe will forward the flyer for this event to E&E members.

8.2 Home & Leisure Show Update

Vicky Trotter reported that the 10x10 booth has been booked for the show. E&E was offered the not-for-profit fee for the booth at a reduced price of \$201.99. Emily Skelding offered to get collection calendars and rodent-proof clips for the green bins to give out at the show. Ms. Trotter suggested having a kitchen catcher and green bin on display and let people know the cost and where they can be purchased. Ms. Skelding will be in contact with the recycling operator to inquire about a blue wheelie bin for display at the show.

Linda Wakenhut updated the committee that Garden Stratford is not available to partner with E&E on an invasive species display for the show, as they have an upcoming district meeting.

Ms. Skelding stated that there will be green bins at the show to collect food waste and Public Works will pick them up after.

Anna Stratton, Felicity Sutcliffe and Craig Merkley volunteered to form a working group to organize items for the booth. Ms. Stratton will send out a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

8.3 Trail Signage for T.J. Dolan (side trails)

Vicky Trotter provided members with a draft design of the requested trail signage. The signs are 20x30 cm and made of aluminum. The quote for ten signs is \$162.95. Craig Merkley has spoken with Community Services staff and the signs are to be installed on 4x4 posts, which are not included in the sign quote.

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Linda Wakenhut

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$400.00 to purchase (10) "Stay on Trail" signs for T.J. Dolan as per the quote provided and (10) 4x4 posts to mount them on. Carried

8.4 E&E Article

Linda Wakenhut updated members that she will be writing the first article on invasive species. Some suggestions from members of species to include are: vinca, goutweed, garlic mustard, hogweed and Japanese knotweed. Ms. Wakenhut will focus on one or two in each monthly article as well as offer alternatives people can plant instead.

Ms. Wakenhut will have a draft prepared for the April E&E meeting for members to review.

9. New Business

None noted.

10. Upcoming Events

- Climate Conversation: Waste Not, Want Not – March 6, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Climate Conversation: Natural Assets – March 27, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Stratford Home & Leisure Show – April 12-13, 2025
- Climate Conversation: Walking the Talk of a Green City – Apr. 24, 2025 @ 7 pm
- Tree Power Event – Saturday, April 26, 2025 (8-10 a.m. - dog park parking lot)
- Earth Day Street Party – Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 11:30-2:00 p.m.
- Climate Conversation: Industry & Circular Economy – May 22, 2025 @ 7:00 pm

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., City Hall - Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

12. Adjournment

Motion by Ken Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the March 6, 2025 Energy & Environment Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 5:00 P.M.