



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee

Agenda

June 12th, 2023

630 pm

Erin Town Hall, lower-level meeting room / Zoom

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Jen Edwards, Martin Rudd, Christina Green (late), Sarbpreet Bopairai and Gavin Dandy

Absent: Matthew Cameron, Julie René de Cotret and Chris Tynan

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:44 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved John Brennan

Seconded By Martin Rudd

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

3. Declaration Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes of May 8th, 2023

Moved Martin Rudd

Seconded By Abel Page

Carried

5. Guest Presentation: EcoCaledon

- Group was initially created to advocate for waste transfer relocation
- Is now involved with many ongoing projects in the community, including educational programs (ie. waste sorting, food waste reduction and “Idle free Caledon”) and advocacy work (battery recycling) with community partners
- Advocated for the region of Peel to declare a current Climate emergency declaration
- Initially called “Citizens for a Green Caledon”
- Applicants for Green Action Grant (with specific goal in mind, such as “Caledon Cares Environment Challenge”)
- Sub-committee that focuses on climate delegation
- Great relationship with local conservation authorities
- One elected Councillor is on EcoCaledon, and reports on ongoing initiatives, and encourages involvement of advisory groups
- Group shared notable resources and emphasized the importance of advocacy in municipal government (ie. residential development)

6. Business Items

6.1 Existing ESAC initiatives (if update required)

- Ongoing conversations regarding rain barrels with the Town
- Grant was given to Brisbane Public School
 - Members will organize a photo-op in the near future

6.2 GHG inventory discussion following last meeting’s presentation

- ESAC will follow-suit of the county
- Able will follow-up

6.3 Potential grants writing and application

- Will revisit next meeting when Julie is present

6.4 Future of ESAC – Supporting Erin through growth

- ESAC members expressed interest for Jack (director of planning within the Town of Erin) to present to the committee next meeting

7. Other Business

Backyard Chicken By-Law (Matthew Cameron)

- Wellington county is promoting a circular food economy such as recycling food scraps (mimicking a natural system of regeneration)
- The Town of Erin Backyard Chicken By-Law is unnecessarily restrictive (maximum number of chickens and coop set back from edge of property)
- This by-law is clearly meant to address noise and smell (no rooster allowed, only 5 chickens allowed [vs. the standard of 10] and coop setbacks (cannot be within the setback)
- The town should revise this by-law to make it possible for a regular person to have more than 5 chickens and position the coop wherever they can have a shed on their property
- The current By-Law is in conflict with the Wellington county circular food economy policy document as well as the town of Erin strategic plan in regards to promoting Green living
- Research suggest that a family of four, each using one egg a day, would need at least 6 egg-laying hens (which is not possible with the current by-law)
- Severn Township (similar in population size to Erin) allows for 12 hens
- Matthew will write a formal policy recommendation report to council

Clean Up Kits (Christina Green)

- As a new initiative, the Town should offer free “Clean-Up Kits” which include garbage bags, disposable gloves, high visibility vest and other required equipment
- The kits could be offered from Town Hall (would require 2-3 resident signatures)
- There is currently a need as the Town’s Facebook community page regularly has people sharing pictures of themselves cleaning garbage (these residents are removing waste using their own funds)
- Offering “clean up kits” would decrease litter, enhance environmental stewardship and increase the sense of community and a valuable relationships (neighbors would get together to do it)
- Popular nearby (Bradford, Clarington, Kitchener, Toronto, Muskoka, Guelph, Brampton, South Huron, Hamilton) - South Huron having a similar population size to Erin

- South Huron has a unique program, which allows for residents to register in teams and report impact through an online form
- Christina Green will write a formal policy recommendation report to council

Turtle Sign Update

- Many signs are being purchased from Budson's
- 90\$ of Turtle Sign sales were returned back to the budget

8. Date of Next Meeting (July 10th 2023)

9. Adjournment

Moved Christina Green
Seconded By Abel Page.

Carried

Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.