



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes of the July 10, 2023 Meeting
6:30PM
Town Hall – Conference Room/Zoom

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Martin Rudd, Christina Green, Matthew Cameron, Julie René de Cotret, Sarbpreet Bopairai, Chris Tynan and Jen Edwards (late)

Absent: Gavin Dandy

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Amendments:

- Guest presenter, Jack Krubnik, will reschedule his presentation to a later date
- Addition of an item under *Other Business*, “Advisory role on the environmental impact of construction”

Moved by Julie René de Cotret

Seconded by John Brennan

Motion to approve the agenda as amended

All in favor

Carried

3. Declaration Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes of June 12th, 2023

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by Sarbpreet Bopairai

Carried

5. Guest Presentation: Jack Krubnik, Director Planning & Development Town of Erin

- Removed

6. Business Items

6.1 Existing ESAC initiatives (if update required)

- Follow-up with Brisbane PS in the fall for an update on their garden in the fall
- Collect pictures for social media
- Contact local newspaper to potentially write an article about the grant
- No update on turtle signs and rain barrels

6.2 GHG inventory discussion - PCP Protocol

- Abel will contact Wellington County to get information and sample data for the Town of Erin inventory

6.3 Potential grants – writing and application

- Ontario Community Environment Fund:
 - Directs funds from environmental penalties to important, community- based activities (ie. shoreline cleanups, habitat restoration and tree planting)
 - Municipalities are eligible to apply
 - Minimum funding request is \$5,000
 - Must provide a series of supporting documents (ie. detailed budget)
 - Application deadline was May 30, 2023
- Green municipal fund
 - Helps local governments switch to more sustainable practices (ie. restoring contaminated sites, energy-efficient housing and expanding conservation and recycling systems)
 - Offers grants for municipal environmental projects. Loans are also available to municipalities at competitive rates.

- As a next step, the committee will connect with town staff, Lavina Dixit.

6.4 Clean up kit project

- Christina will present a formal proposal/report, including a cost estimate, next meeting, which will be presented to council
- Chris Tynan offered to provide 25 high visibility vests
- Clarification that the reusable equipment (ie. vests) will be picked up and dropped off from a designated location, for it to be reused

6.5 Future of ESAC – Supporting Erin through growth

- Martin will inquire with the Erin Chamber of Commerce, to potentially collaborate for Earth Day Event (ie. organize environmental vendors)
- The committee will follow up with Jack Krubnik to inquire if ESAC can be more involved in an advisory capacity on environmental decisions, such as input on the new housing development
- The committee discussed the idea of implementing more underground wildlife crossings or conservation projects. When planning new developments and roads, this can be included as a requirement for developers – this should be included in the year-end report to the council.
- John Brennan emphasized the importance of providing a year-end report, and presenting it to the council at a public meeting.

7. Other Business

7.1 Advisory role on the environmental impact of construction

- Construction of the wastewater treatment plant is raising questions and concerns amongst residents: changes in the water table, run off, wildlife disturbance, etc.
- There are concerns as well with the pipe going through the Elora-Cataract trail. Considering the terrain and existing wildlife, there is some concerns that it won't be possible to return the trail to its original state
- John Brennan advised the committee that there has been an extensive environmental study that considers wildlife and restoration.
- Members of the committee wondered whether the committee could play a bigger role through the construction and what this role could be. Councillor Brennan

suggested the committee to contact Councillor Aylard to discuss this as she is on the construction liaison group.

7.2 Donation of New Signs

- The previously donated signs were stolen
- Motion to donate 2 new signs to Turtle Guardians

Moved by Julie René de Cotret

Seconded by Jen Edwards

All in favor

Carried

7.3 Tree Planting Event

- Committee has been asked to partner in a fall tree planting event
- Potential dates are October 21st and October 28th (October 21st is our preferred date)

8. Date of Next Meeting (August 14th 2023)

9. Adjournment

Moved by Christina Green

Seconded by Abel Page

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Carried