



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

August 14th, 2023 – 6:30 PM

Erin Town Hall, lower-level meeting room / Zoom

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

Absent: Sarbpreet Bopairai and Gavin Dandy

Guest Presenter: Jack Krubnik

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:42PM.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By John Brennan

Seconded By Abel Page

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved By John Brennan

Seconded By Abel Page

Carried

Amendment: Item 6.1 should read “Follow-up with Brisbane PS in the fall for an update on their garden in the fall.”

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

- Krubnik welcomes ESAC's input on drafting community development standards and green development standards (County)
- Surrounding municipalities already have established standards (ie. Caledon, Guelph and Halton Hills)
- Standards will be shared with landowners, developers and stakeholders, regarding aspects of construction and developments such as layout, green spaces, and site plan agreements
- The hope is to turn this initiative around quickly in order to have greener developments, considering how fast our township's growth is. We are aiming to introduce the standards by the 1st quarter next year.
- The county doesn't yet have Green Standards but they will begin their process soon and we hope to partner up with them.
- Some standards won't be able to be applied to the current subdivisions being built since it involves development stages (ie. planning of green transportation)
- Enforcement is largely voluntary but developers are aware of the Green Standard, as it has been around for 20 years. The Ontario Building Code is the only real building legislation.
- Once the Erin Green Standard is drafted (around the end of September), there will be an opportunity to reconnect and give feedback in our role as Advisory Committee.
- Concerns for transportation and road standards were shared with Krubnik. The population growth leading to an unsustainable number of cars on the roads. Brennan indicated that all the road data must be compiled in order to have a proper study. Chris then suggested that we should request that someone from the County come to an ESAC meeting to discuss roads.
- ESAC shared various grant opportunities with Krubnik. A synthesized version of the possibilities offered by the Green Municipality Fund will be sent to Jack, in order to determine if it can be useful in these processes.

6. Business Items

6.1 Existing ESAC initiatives

- More turtle signs to be ordered.
- Abel will deliver the signs to Erin Hillsburgh Turtle Guardians

5.2 Climate change Policy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory (PCP protocol)

- Some concerns shared that the exercise to be far too demanding on an advisory committee, in terms of time requirement and skill level.

- Abel explains how the process could work. County could help with the Agricultural Emissions. Enbridge and Hydro could provide data on consumption, but the postal code territory division is an obstacle. We also must find a way to evaluate the emissions created by transport. The county has some data and some models that could help. John suggests that we look at the data from the county and see what data remains to be determined.
- In this process Abel and Julie met with Lavina to discuss this and the Green Municipal Fund. She indicated that the township needs a Climate Change Policy. Julie will create a draft from sourced municipal Climate Change Policies.

6.3 Potential grants writing and application

- The committee hopes to get more information from the Town on which grants could align with their priorities
- Members will continue to discuss a specific project, or many projects
- Projects should be affordable (10 - 15 thousand)
- ULR link with detailed grant information will be shared with ESAC members
- Some concerns regarding storm water

6.4 Tree planting event with CVC on October 21st, 2023

- Will occur at Center 2000
- Discussed promoting the event to community partners (ie. high school and Tennis club)

6.5 Clean up kit project

- Draft was shared with ESAC
- Christina to make minor edits
- Additional high visibility vests have been donated by Chris Tynan
- Will increase garbage grabber tool (one per person)
- Kits to be prepared for a family/group of 5. A larger group can increase the number of kits required (ie. a group of 20 people can request 4 kits)
- Black garbage bags to be fitted into the county bags (in addition)
- The kits would hopefully one day be available at the county library but for now they could be at Town Hall.

- Program recommendation will be sent to council

6.6 Advisory role on the environmental impact of construction

- Wheels are in motion to assist council on this item. Re:John Brennan emphasized the importance of providing a year-end report, and presenting it to the council at a public meeting.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Date of Next Meeting (September 11th, 2023)

*Note that meeting will start at 7:00PM

9. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at the hour of 8:21 PM.

Moved by Jen Edwards

Seconded By Julie René de Cotret

Carried