



PORT COLBORNE

City of Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2024
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Engineering and Operations Centre, Committee Room
1 Killaly St West, Port Colborne

Members Present: A. Smits, Chair
J. Hellinga
O. Iwanicki
K. Klauck
T. Lamb
N. Green (virtual), non-voting, NPCA
R. Waines (virtual)

Members Absent: N. Gieger
M. Bagu, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor

Staff Present: Cassandra Banting, Staff Liaison
Samantha Morris, Environmental Services Division

Others Present: Nil

1. Call to Order

The committee Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. EST.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Katherine Klauck moved to adopt the EAC meeting agenda dated September 11, 2024.
Seconded by Jack Hellinga.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

4. Approval of Minutes

Jack Hellinga moved to adopt the EAC minutes dated June 26, 2024, as written. Seconded by Tim Lamb.

Carried

5. Staff Updates (C. Banting)

City's Official Plan

The Official Plan is being updated. There was a public open house in June. Comment page is still up on Let's Connect. Cassandra will invite Denise Landry to the next EAC meeting to discuss further.

Urban Forest Management Plan

The Urban Forest Management Plan was adopted by Council. It is now available on the City's website.

Tree Planting Initiative

The City is investing \$200,000 to plant trees throughout Port Colborne. Work will start in the next few weeks. Cassandra will share the name of the contractor once they are procured.

Rain Barrel and Tree Giveaway

We've sold out of both rain barrels (324) and trees (144). Event is taking place this Saturday.

Tim Lamb moved to continue with a rain barrel sale and tree giveaway next Fall. Seconded by Ryan Waines.

Carried

EV Charging Stations and EV Fleet

The City is working to finalize the agreement with an EV charging station supplier. The current plan is to have stations in the following locations:

- Two level 3 charging stations at Vale Health and Wellness Centre that can be used simultaneously
- Level 2 charging stations at the market
- Level 2 charging stations at H.H. Knoll Park
- Level 2 charging stations at the Main St. parking lot

The City is not applying for the recommended funding after doing a cost benefit analysis and not meeting funding criteria.

Last month, the City received the first electric zero turn lawnmower. An electric ice resurfer was successfully tested. An RFQ will go out to procure one in the fall.

Proposing to procure three electric pickup trucks, zero turn lawnmower, RTV, auto mower at Vale in the 2025 budget. Also looking at capacity for charging stations for 2025 at City facilities.

Tim Lamb moved that the EAC to support the City's EV Charging Station strategy as presented. Seconded by Katherine Klauck.

Carried

Water Loss Program

Environmental Services is working on a large program with a focus on reducing water loss in the City. Some examples of actions we are undertaking include reviewing water meter data, procuring AI smart hydrants to listen for leaks, and undertaking an infrastructure needs assessment. New technologist added to our group recently as well.

6. Feedback on Engineering Design Manual

Cassandra circulated the draft manual in July. Discussion moved to November meeting.

7. EAC 2024 Workplan Updates

7.1. Progress Towards the Goals

Goal #1: Increase public awareness of environmental initiatives

- Review the webpage: Amanda and Katherine undertaking.
- Hold community tree planting: Did the tree giveaway instead.
- Social media: Nothing reported.
- Speaker Series event: Three speakers lined up. City staff will attend. Rain barrels will be given away at each. \$1,000 donated by Jungbunzlauer for refreshments and door prizes.

Goal #2: Increase awareness about rainwater run off water/stormwater best practices.

- Rain barrel sale this weekend

Goal #3: Increased focus on the urban forest

- Tree/native species rebate.
- Reviewing the native tree species list – is it in line with the NPCA's list?
- Tree giveaways: Two completed.

Goal #4: Advocating for electrification

- Moving away from gas: Norbert and Tim exploring
- Highlight residential electrification: Hosting a seminar on this.

7.2. Next Steps

Norbert would like to research federal funding for EAC's work to bring forward to the committee. Present to staff. Staff will propose to Council if it's in alignment with the City's strategic plan.

November 2024 meeting will focus on developing the EAC's 2025 workplan.

8. New Business

Tim Lamb shared that the provincial government is looking for land for renewable energy (solar/wind).

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:54 p.m. Moved by Jack Hellinga and seconded by Tim Lamb.

Carried

The next EAC meeting will be held on November 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Amanda Smits

Cassandra Banting

Chair

Staff Liaison