

City of Port Colborne
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Engineering and Operations Centre, Committee Room
1 Killaly St West, Port Colborne

Members Present: R. Waines
J. Hellinga
N. Gieger
T. Lamb
K. Klauck
A. Smits
O. Iwanicki

Staff Present: M. Bagu, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
Cassandra Banting
S. Morris
A. Riolino

Others Present: Curtis Dray, Manager of Roads and Parks Operations

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved By Tim Lamb

Seconded By Ryan Waines

That the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, dated January 16, 2025, be approved.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved By Tim Lamb

Seconded By Katherine Klauck

That the following minutes be approved:

- Environmental Advisory Committee - September 11, 2024
- Environmental Advisory Committee - November 13, 2024

Carried

4.1 Environmental Advisory Committee - September 11, 2024

4.2 Environmental Advisory Committee - November 13, 2024

5. Staff Updates

Tree Update (C. Dray)

Expanding the Urban Tree Canopy

- Last year council approved a budget of \$200,000 to plant trees in the urban boundary area. The City is developing a plan for this funding based on the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), including location and species selection. Aiming for as many native species as possible.
- In 2024, 400 trees were planted on public property (boulevards and parks). Many residents called saying they want more than one tree on their property.
- A consultant was hired to advise where the City should plant 400 trees/year for approximately 5 years to get to the 40% urban canopy.
- Staff is working with Communications to put maps on the website. Residents will get a door hanger 4-6 weeks in advance so they can contact the City if they don't want a tree or want more than one.

NPCA: Trees for All Initiative

- The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has partnered with local community groups, environmental agencies, and government organizations that share a common interest in helping Canada reach its goal of planting 2 Billion Trees for a better tomorrow. They have

developed the Trees for All initiative with a goal of planting 1 million trees by 2031.

- Public Works will be taking a report to Council to request funding to participate in the NPCA's Trees for All program. They plant and monitor the trees for 1.5 years. In addition to our current planting plan, this would add 6,300 more trees that can be put on private property in Port Colborne. If approved, the NPCA would work with homeowners to pick tree location and type.

The Committee noted that urban tree equity should be kept in mind to ensure that the east and west sides are receiving trees equitably.

In new subdivisions there's a requirement for native trees to be planted. These programs are separate.

EV Charging Stations (C. Banting)

Public Level 2 Charging Stations

- We are ready to start the electrical make ready works for the 3 level 2 public charging station locations (2 at H.H. Knoll Park, 2 at Market Square, 2 at 105 Main Street West Parking Lot) we are just waiting for the temperature to warm up as there is concrete pouring required for the charger bases and that is better done in warmer temperatures.
- FLO has made an arrangement with the City's electrical contractor to also install the charging units.

Public Fast Charger

- FLO is working on finalizing details with CNP (the electrical utility) once schedule information is available we can update the EAC.

Charging Stations for Port Colborne Public Works and Fire Station

- Engineering has been completed for the necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades needed to accommodate the proposed electric vehicle charging stations.
- We will be putting out an RFQ to complete the electrical site work and EV charger installation.
- A new transformer is required to provide adequate power. We have preliminarily been told this has a 52 week lead time. Once we have an electrical contractor and have placed the order for the transformer we will provide schedule updates as they become available.

- As a stop gap measure two of the EV charging stations are planned to be installed at the Engineering and Operations Centre to accommodate electric vehicles that are planned to be purchased in 2025.

Electric Fleet Vehicles

- City Staff are starting to put together documentation for procurement of electric vehicles scheduled to be purchased in 2025 as part of the capital budget.

Water and Wastewater Open House (C. Banting)

The City is hosting this event in March to share water and wastewater information with the public. More information will be shared through the City's communications channels shortly.

Staffing Update (S. Morris)

The new Environmental Analyst started with our team last week.

6. Order of Business

7. 2025 Committee Workplan

Amanda Smits presented a draft of the 2025 work plan based on the discussion of the last meeting.

Goal #1: Continue to increase public awareness of municipal environmental initiatives.

Goal #2: Raise awareness of storm water/wastewater management best practices.

Goal #3: Increase awareness and advocating for electrification.

The Committee discussed initiatives related to each of the goals.

8. New Business

The City is collaborating with the Region and other municipalities on a procurement plan for developing climate action plans. Updates will be provided when available.

The Committee requested that Cassandra bring an update on the City's GHG emissions performance. More information will be shared with the Committee when available.

Councillor Bagu shared that City staff are going to FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference in February.

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Moved By Tim Lamb

Seconded By Ryan Waines

Carried

Chair

Staff Liaison