

DRAFT Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee Annual Report: 2021

Introduction: Here is the annual report of Port Colborne's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for 2021.

Purpose: *"The Environmental Advisory Committee is an Ad-Hoc Committee of Council whose purpose is to:*

- *Advise Council on environmental, energy conservation and shoreline protection issues that affect the City of Port Colborne and those matters referred to the committee by Council.*
- *To promote the integration of environmental, energy conservation and shoreline protection considerations into the planning and development of City policies, programs and services."*¹

2021 Membership: Trent Doan, Norbert Geiger, Jack Hellinga, Tim Hoyle, George McKibbon (Chair), Clayton Nadeau (Vice Chair), Steven Rivers, Kerry Royer (non-voting member (NPCA), Ryan Waines, Councillor Mark Bagu, Councillor Harry Wells, Cassandra Banting (City of Port Colborne Environmental Compliance Officer), Janice Peyton (City of Port Colborne Recording Secretary). Towards the end of the year, Clayton Nadeau resigned and two new members were introduced: Tim Lamb and Katherine Klauck.

Meetings: In 2021, given the COVID-19 pandemic, three virtual meetings were held using Teams in accordance with City policy. The meetings were held on August 11, October 13, and December 8. Presentations were made at these meetings by: Rod Tennyson, a citizen report on Great Lakes Water Quality; Ryan Waines, Jungbunzlauer's environmental land use compatibility; George McKibbon, Chair EAC on MECP's land use compatibility policies and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute guidance on Flyrock; Mike Audet, Parks Supervisor on the Bee City initiative; and Gregory Ford of Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative on their organizational activities.

Actions: Both reports on land use compatibility and the fly rock advisory were provided to City of Port Colborne Senior Planner David Shultz and Region of Niagara Planning Staff responsible for the review of PCQ's expansion applications. Arising from decisions taken in 2020, on January 15, 2021 Janice Peyton's email to Amber LaPointe was addressed on Council's January 25th meeting. That recommendation addressed further follow-up, addressing the results of Vale's Community Based Risk Assessment. An action statement on electric vehicle readiness is to be discussed with David Shultz, Port Colborne City Planner.

At the request of Cassandra Banting, EAC members who were available attended a Regional Transit webinar on the future of public transit. Prior to December 13, 2021, comments from

¹ Terms of Reference, Environmental Advisory Committee, City of Port Colborne

EAC were requested for Council's consideration of Regional transit proposals. Based on EAC's participation earlier in the webinar, EAC's chair, George McKibbin, provided comments by email to Michelle Idzenga.

What is next: With new members Tim Lamb and Katherine Klauck, members provided thoughts on actions they wish to consider:

- Be more conscious of climate change, address more climate change topics and provide comments to staff and council;
- The committee needs more recognition, we are rarely asked to do things;
- Public education and community development where environmental issues like climate warming and electrification are concerned;
- More interesting topics taking place, for example the Port Colborne Quarries application and the concerns about the groundwater aquifer and Lake Erie water quality;
- Expand the committee; and
- How do we make a difference?

On October 28, 2021, Chris Kalimootoo, Cassandra Banting and George McKibbin met remotely using Teams to discuss the working relationship between the Environmental Advisory Committee and Public Works Department. The following understanding was established:

1. Cassandra Banting will act as our liaison with the Department of Public Works. This is a step further than required by the EAC terms of reference.
2. Public Works holds monthly meetings at which time they discuss projects underway. Cassandra Banting will be notified of projects that may be of interest to EAC and reporting to EAC may occur.
3. Public Works will be clear about which advice the Committee offers can be used and which advice cannot and where Public Works cannot use EAC advice they will give reasons to EAC.
4. Where other City Departments are involved, we will need to speak to those Departments. Where inter-departmental committees are involved, we will be advised to the extent Public Works is involved.
5. Public Works will send the draft excess fill bylaw to EAC for comment. This is a topic which is of interest to EAC.
6. To the extent that is possible Public Works will provide draft materials to EAC for comment so Public Works can advise Council that EAC comments have been obtained and where possible used.
7. Committee research work is the responsibility of EAC members and not the responsibility of Public Works liaison staff.

In 2022, EAC will continue its efforts to meet the purposes Council established for this Committee.