



Special Minutes
Municipality of Thames Centre
Environmental Advisory Committee

March 20, 2024, 11:30 A.M.
Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON

Members Present: D. Lockie, Chair/Council Representative
P. Kemp, Vice-Chair/Community Representative
T. Heeman, Council Representative
K. Empey, Community Representative
B. McClure, Community Representative
J. Rule, Community Representative
R. John, Community Representative

Staff Present: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Craven, Director of Public Works
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

Chair Lockie called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. Committee Business

3.1 Green Town Hall Meeting in October

The Committee discussed the following with respect to planning a Green Town Hall:

Date, Time and Location of Event

- Hosting one single Green Town Hall Meeting, vs. hosting two (1 in Dorchester and 1 in Thorndale)
 - Listening to the different needs of each town
 - Inviting the stakeholders relevant to each town (invite Dorchester Agricultural Society to Dorchester event, etc.)
- Avoiding conflicts with other events (Council meetings, etc.)
- October is busy time for farmers
- Budget -
 - Timing of event in relation to Council budget process
 - Current budget of this committee

Resolution: EAC-011-2024

Moved by: P. Kemp

Seconded by: K. Empey

THAT two (2) Green Town Halls be scheduled, with one being hosted in Dorchester and the other in Thorndale.

Carried.

Resolution EAC-011-2024 was reconsidered later in the meeting.

Resolution: EAC-012-2024

Moved by: J. Rule

Seconded by: K. Empey

THAT the Green Town Hall in Dorchester be scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024 from 7-8:30 p.m.;

AND THAT the Green Town Hall in Thorndale be scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2024 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Carried.

Resolution EAC-012-2024 was reconsidered later in the meeting.

Environmental Initiatives

The Chief Administrative Officer provided a brief recap of what this committee is already moving forward with committing to reviewing, regarding the following initiatives:

- Recognition Program for Land Stewardship
- Heritage Tree Program

- Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day
- National Healing Forests
- Memorial Tree Recognition Program
- Tree Planting Plan
- Partners for Climate Protection Program
- Emissions Reduction Program
- Windmills
- Stormwater Taxes
- Salt Management
- Chemicals
- Light Pollution
- Hosting Roundtables
- Building Condition Assessments
- Vehicle Charging Station Locations

How the Public can Provide Feedback & Input

- Having a hybrid public consultation format, with online submissions submitted beforehand
- Obtaining public feedback on what higher-prioritized initiatives would be
- These priorities would go to staff for review, then staff would provide recommendations to committee
- Initiatives could possibly get adopted through Council budget process
- Format of Event -
 - Brief speech/introduction/presentation
 - Setup different breakout tables, in a Trade Show format for stakeholders who provide services:
 - examples - Conservation Authorities, waste management, etc.
- Public Survey -
 - Survey results could help guide discussions
 - Potential to group initiatives into categories
 - Potential to include an overview at beginning of survey explaining municipality's role in initiatives
 - Municipal staff can submit initiatives as well
- Budget - determining amount that the public is willing to invest in environmental initiatives

Resolution: EAC-013-2024

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: P. Kemp

THAT staff be requested to prepare a survey for public feedback for initiatives with respect to different areas of municipal competency in advance of the Green Town Hall meetings.

Carried.

Promotion of Event

- Use event as platform to communicate initiatives currently underway
- Communicate with the public ahead of time about this committee, its initiatives and what is currently being worked on, and the resolutions that have already been passed
 - Town Hall is where ideas can be submitted on what the committee is not currently working on
- Possible ideas to promote event -
 - Utilizing local newspapers - The Signpost and St. Marys Independent
 - Putting up posters in community
 - Social Media
 - I Love Thorndale
 - Take-home information booklet/brochure
 - Environmental swag (seeds, flowers, etc.) - consulting with partners, possible draw for a composter
 - Formal press statements/releases
 - Distributing invitation with tax bills that are mailed out in August

The Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works answered the Committee's questions.

The Committee directed staff to invite the following stakeholders, after the scheduling is confirmed:

- CERV Volunteers (through Bettina Weber, County CEMC)
- Rob Flack, MPP and Karen Vecchio, MP
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- Carolinian Canada Coalition
- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Middlesex
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA)
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority (KCCA)
- Mill Pond Committee

- Hydro One
- Enbridge
- Dorchester Agricultural Society
- Thorndale Agricultural Society
- Middlesex Federation of Agriculture
- Thames Centre staff
- Local High Schools

Resolution: EAC-014-2024

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: P. Kemp

THAT there be one (1) Green Town Hall Meeting in Thorndale the 3rd week of October.

Carried.

Resolution EAC-014-2024 was reconsidered later in the meeting.

Resolution: EAC-015-2024

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: P. Kemp

THAT the resolution number EAC-014-2024 **BE RESCINDED**;
AND THAT two (2) Green Town Halls be scheduled, with one being hosted in Dorchester and the other in Thorndale;
AND THAT the scheduling of dates and meeting rooms be subject to staff selection.

Carried.

4. Scheduling of Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 27, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss it was:

Resolution: EAC-016-2024

Moved by: K. Empey

Seconded by: P. Kemp

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 12:23 p.m.

Carried.