



Regular Minutes
Municipality of Thames Centre
Environmental Advisory Committee

May 27, 2024, 11:30 A.M.
Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON

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

Staff Present: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
J. Craven, Director of Public Works
S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities
S. Zylstra, Communications Coordinator
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

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

2. Approve Agenda

Resolution # EAC-017-24

Moved by: K. Empey

Seconded by: P. Kemp

THAT the May 27, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as circulated.

Carried.

3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. Previous Minutes

Resolution # EAC-018-24

Moved by: J. Rule

Seconded by: P. Kemp

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee regular meeting held on February 5, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee special meeting held on March 20, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

4.1 February 5, 2024 - Regular Meeting

4.2 March 20, 2024 - Special Meeting

5. Presentations/Delegations

No items.

6. Reports of Staff

6.1 Municipal Office - Energy Audit Report

Member McClure arrived at 11:40 a.m.

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, provided background on the Energy Audit Report for the Municipal Office.

The Committee inquired about future plans relating to the energy audit, and if this will be completed for the other municipal buildings.

Staff advised that the original intention of this audit is for grant application eligibility, and that there are general plans to complete this for all other

facilities, including the FlightExec Centre where there is a lot of energy consumption.

The Committee discussed long-term cost savings and decreasing the burden to taxpayers through grants, and also debated whether the cost of natural increase would rise or not.

Resolution # EAC-019-24

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: J. Rule

THAT the Energy Audit Report for the Municipal Office **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

6.2 Partners for Climate Protection Program

Chair Lockie provided background on the Partners for Climate Protection Program and opened the floor for the Committee to discuss if the potential allocation of \$25,000 is a good use of funds or not.

The Committee compared the two (2) separate programs - Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) and the Building Adaptive and Resilient Communities Program (BARC) and discussed the full costs and features of each program, as well as long-term initiatives and impacts.

The Committee inquired about the recommended utilization of one-time funding of \$25,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve to be used towards the PCP Program for Corporate Benchmarking, including, a retroactive analysis of Municipal energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, advised there would be a commitment to fulfill obligations as a Municipality, as the work does require additional assistance initially to get started. D. Barrick further advised this amount could either be considered by Council in 2024 or be referred to the 2025 Budget Deliberations.

The Committee discussed potential financial obligations to the BARC Program, being a \$20,000 annual commitment.

The Committee discussed building assessments and advocating for capital improvements, as well as grant funding eligibility.

The Committee provided direction to staff not to join the BARC program at this time.

Resolution # EAC-019-24

Moved by: P. Kemp

Seconded by: J. Rule

THAT Report No. CAO-002-24 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

AND THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommend to Council that the Resolution to Join the FCM—ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection Program **BE ADOPTED** as follows:

WHEREAS The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) have established the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program to provide a forum for municipal governments to share their knowledge and experience with other municipal governments on how to reduce GHG emissions;

WHEREAS over 350 municipal governments across Canada representing more than 65 percent of the population have already committed to reducing corporate and community GHG emissions through the PCP program since its inception in 1994;

WHEREAS the PCP program is based on a five-milestone framework that involves completing a GHG inventory and forecast, setting a GHG reduction target, developing a local action plan, implementing the plan, and monitoring progress and reporting results;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Thames Centre review the guidelines on PCP Member Benefits and Responsibilities and then communicate to FCM and ICLEI Canada its participation in the PCP program and its commitment to achieving the milestones set out in the PCP five-milestone framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee and the CAO be appointed to oversee the implementation of the PCP milestones and be the points of contact for the PCP program within the Municipality.

AND THAT one-time funding of \$25,000 from the Tax Stabilization Reserve be authorized for utilization toward this Program for Corporate Benchmarking, including, a retroactive analysis of Municipal energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Carried.

6.3 Green Town Hall Update - Scheduling and Draft Public Survey

The Committee discussed the wording of draft survey questions as presented, and also discussed potential new survey questions.

The Committee discussed Section 3 of the Draft Survey, "Program Feedback" to potentially include a link or description to provide additional information regarding these programs.

The Committee discussed the format of the upcoming Green Town Halls, including how to display survey results and potentially facilitating 3-5 concurrent smaller roundtable discussions.

The Committee further discussed how to explain the purpose of the Green Town Halls, which is to engage with the public and obtain feedback for an action plan on climate change, and to explain this in advertising and at each town hall event.

The Committee discussed the timeframe for survey completion, as well as the tentatively scheduled dates for the Green Town Halls.

The Committee discussed how to invite members of the public, as well as stakeholders and organizations.

The Committee directed staff to present the survey results to the Committee, in advance of the Green Town Halls, at the next regular meeting.

Resolution # EAC-020-24

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: R. John

THAT the Green Town Hall Survey **BE APPROVED**, as amended to the following:

- Draft Question on Chemical Management – split this question into two (2) questions: the use of pesticides on residential land, and the use of pesticides on agricultural land
- Include questions about the following potential initiatives:
 - Hazardous waste material elimination
 - Habitat destruction
 - Habitat restoration
 - Biodiversity;

AND THAT staff be directed to implement the survey and obtain public feedback results, in advance of the Green Town Hall meetings.

Carried.

7. Committee Business

No items.

8. Correspondence

The Committee discussed the possibility of collaborating and working together with the Thames Centre Special Events Committee on the Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day initiative.

J. Nethercott, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk, instead recommended the formation of a Working Group, which would avoid a quorum of Council, and that the Chairs of each committee could connect directly with one another to discuss this possibility and report back.

Resolution # EAC-021-24

Moved by: T. Heeman

Seconded by: K. Empey

THAT Correspondence Items 8.a. through 8.d. **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

8.1 Thames Centre Council Resolution - Declaration of Climate Change Crisis (March 25, 2024 Meeting)

8.2 Thames Centre Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee Resolution - National Healing Forest Initiative (February 5, 2024 Meeting)

Moved by: S. Rae

Seconded by: D. Lockie

THAT Report No. C-AIAC-01-2024 be received for information;

AND THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee recommends that Thames Centre Council develop a Land Acknowledgment, using the Association of Municipalities Guidelines;

AND THAT the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee support the Environmental Advisory Committee's recommendation to consider a joint recommendation for a National Healing Forest initiative, to be implemented in two (2) locations within Thames Centre.

Carried.

8.3 Thames Centre Special Events Committee - Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day (February 14, 2024 Meeting)

At the February 14, 2024 meeting of the Thames Centre Special Events Committee, the following was discussed under New Business:

Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day

S. Henshaw advised that the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) passed a resolution to consult with the Thames Centre Special Events Committee (TCSEC) with respect to an Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day and provided background on EAC's discussions regarding this event.

There was some discussion on the following:

- **Earth Day event ideas (picking up garbage, etc.)**
- **Potential for Scouts wanting to volunteer**

The committee provided direction to staff to obtain information from the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) on more detailed plans and budgeting for the Tree Planting Day.

8.4 Thames Valley Trail Association (TVTA) Newsletter - Winter 2024

9. Unfinished Business

No items.

10. New Business

No items.

11. Scheduling of Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled to be held September 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Resolution # EAC-022-24

Moved by: K. Empey

Seconded by: T. Heeman

RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 12:39 p.m.

Carried.