



**Regular Minutes**  
**Municipality of Thames Centre**  
**Environmental Advisory Committee**

**February 4, 2025, 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  
                                 B. McClure, Community Representative  
                                 J. Rule, Community Representative  
                                 K. Empey, Community Representative  
                                 R. John, Community Representative

Members Absent:     T. Heeman, Council Representative

Staff Present:         D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer  
                                 J. Craven, Director of Public Works  
                                 A. Storrey, Director of Planning and Development Services  
                                 S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities  
                                 M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager  
                                 S. Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary

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**1.     Call To Order**

Chair Lockie called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution # EAC-001-25**

**Moved by:** J. Rule

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** the February 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Environmental Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as presented.

**Carried.**

3. **Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **Previous Minutes**

**Resolution # EAC-002-25**

**Moved by:** K. Empey

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held on December 2, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

**Carried.**

5. **Reports of Staff**

6. **Committee Business**

6.1 **Green Town Hall Feedback**

***At its regular meeting held on December 2, 2024, the Environmental Advisory Committee received Report No. EAC-002-24 and discussed moving Agenda Item 5.b. "Green Town Hall Feedback" to the next regular committee meeting for a more in-depth discussion.***

The Committee reviewed and discussed the "Green Town Hall Meetings - Feedback Summary" document, as appended to the February 4, 2025 Agenda.

**The Tree Planting Plan**

The Committee discussed how to increase public awareness of the Tree Planting Plan, including communications through various channels.

M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager, provided an update on current social media initiatives that are taking place.

The Committee discussed Middlesex County's Woodlands Conservation By-law No. 7314 and inquired if Thames Centre has any policies regarding the destruction of individual trees. Staff confirmed there are no current policies for this in effect.

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, provided an update that staff are continuing to work on the Memorial Tree Recognition Program and the Heritage Tree Program.

### **Ecosystem Protection**

The Committee discussed the feasibility of Thorndale Lions Community Centre potentially being a location for residents to drop off items such as single-use batteries, old smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.

The Committee discussed the composting options that are currently available for residents and inquired about the feasibility of using composting bins in the future.

The Committee inquired if Thames Centre has any by-laws regulating the usage of pesticides. Staff advised this would be confirmed.

### **Water Management**

The Committee discussed the importance of public education with respect to water management and residents understanding where their water comes from.

The Committee discussed increasing youth engagement, including reaching out to local schools.

### **Green Energy and Emission Reductions**

S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities, provided an update that both the municipal office and FlightExec Centre parking lots have been prepared for the potential future installation of EV Charging Stations and that the Municipality can move forward with installation once funding has been received.

D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer, confirmed that the Corporate Benchmarking Report on 2023 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Summary was completed and presented to Council.

### **Enhancing Active Living**

S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities, confirmed the Municipality is in the process of updating its current Trails and Cycling Master Plan and part of that process will include public engagement sessions in both Thorndale and Dorchester.

### **Act Local**

The Committee discussed the feasibility of holding Local Farmers' Markets in Thorndale and Dorchester.

#### **Resolution # EAC-003-25**

**Moved by:** R. John

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee **RECOMMEND** that the Economic Development Advisory Committee discuss the feasibility of a Local Farmers' Market, to be held in Dorchester or Thorndale, or at both locations.

**Carried.**

The Committee discussed the scheduling of Repair Cafes, to be held in Dorchester and Thorndale this year.

***Upon Consensus, the Committee moved to Agenda Item 8.1 under Unfinished Business, "Recognition Program for Land Stewardship".***

#### **8. Unfinished Business**

##### **8.1 Recognition Program for Land Stewardship**

***(Relates to Correspondence Agenda Item 7.a.)***

After some discussion, it was:

#### **Resolution # EAC-004-25**

**Moved by:** P. Kemp

**Seconded by:** J. Rule

**THAT** the Report titled, "Implementing Green Champion Awards for 2025" **BE RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee **ENDORSE** the Green Champion Award Implementation Plan for 2025.

**Carried.**

## **7. Correspondence**

### **7.1 Economic Development Advisory Committee - Resolution from December 12, 2024 Meeting**

**Moved by:** S. McMillan

**Seconded by:** J. Baribeau

**THAT** Unfinished Business Items 9.a. through 9.d. **BE RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT** the Economic Development Advisory Committee **SUPPORTS** the Environmental Advisory Committee's creation of a recognition program for land stewardship and **SUPPORTS** an award category being created to award businesses that have initiated ongoing environmental initiatives or projects in Thames Centre.

**Carried.**

### **7.2 Upper Thames River Conservation Authority - Free Workshop on Soil & Fertility Management**

**Resolution # EAC-005-25**

**Moved by:** J. Rule

**Seconded by:** K. Empey

**THAT** Correspondence Items 7.a. and 7.b. **BE RECEIVED** as information.

**Carried.**

## **9. New Business**

The Committee discussed the upcoming Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day.

The Committee discussed the National Healing Forest Initiative and the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC).

**Resolution # EAC-006-25**

**Moved by:** J. Rule

**Seconded by:** K. Empey

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) **RECOMMEND** that the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) work together with the EAC to implement the National Healing Forest Initiative.

**Carried.**

**10. Scheduling of Meetings**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 11:30 a.m.

**11. Adjournment**

**Resolution # EAC-007-25**

**Moved by:** K. Empey

**Seconded by:** J. Rule

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting **ADJOURN** at 12:25 p.m.

**Carried.**