



Regular Minutes
Municipality of Thames Centre
Environmental Advisory Committee

May 27, 2025, 11:30 A.M.
Municipal Office - Council Chambers
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON

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

Members Absent: T. Heeman, Council Representative

Staff Present: A. Storrey, Director of Planning and Development Services
S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities
J. Craven, Director of Public Works (*arrived at 11:41 a.m.*)
A. Sanderson, Project Manager
M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call To Order

Chair Lockie called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution # EAC-008-25

Moved by: K. Empey

Seconded by: J. Rule

THAT the May 27, 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-009-25

Moved by: R. John

Seconded by: J. Rule

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Regular Meeting held on February 4, 2025 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

5. Reports of Staff

5.1 New Battery Recycling Drop-off in Thorndale (Verbal Report)

J. Craven provided a verbal update on the new battery recycling drop-off at the Thorndale Lions Community Centre and that it has been received well by community members so far.

The Committee inquired about the disposal of LED lights. J. Craven confirmed LED lights are considered household hazardous waste and that the City of London Landfill can accept them.

The Committee inquired about the electronic waste collection program. J. Craven confirmed that electronic waste is part of the Charity Metal Depot program, which now takes place every other year.

5.2 Green Champion Awards - Update (Verbal Report)

M. Ramnanan, Communications Manager, provided a verbal update on the Green Champion Awards and that only a few nominations have been received so far.

The Committee discussed potential nominations of people from within the community.

5.3 Memorial Tree Recognition Program and Heritage Tree Program (Discussion)

S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services and Facilities, presented a slide show on “Location Considerations for Memorial Forests and Healing Forests”, as appended to the minutes.

S. MacDonald advised that the locations should be accessible, including level ground, with nearby parking.

The Committee discussed the benefits and disadvantages to each proposed location.

Dorchester Site Option #1 - Dorchester Conservation Area

This location is accessible, within town, is already used by community members and has existing trails, parking, garbage cans and a small playground.

Dorchester Site Option #2 - Eva/Ida Parkland

This location has not had any development and there are no existing trails or amenities. This location cannot support parking for large gatherings, such as a Memorial Tree service.

Dorchester Site Option #3 - Donnybrook Roadway Allowance

This location is located outside of town off a major County road, with only roadside parking available. There are no existing trails or amenities.

Thorndale Site Option #1 - 69 Elliott Trail (behind the school)

This location is accessible, within town, existing trees, roadside parking and is right beside the school. Staff will need to consult with the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) to discuss this potential arrangement.

Thorndale Site Option #2 - Elliott Trail

This location is accessible, has roadside parking, existing woodland and trails. There are no amenities at this location, besides one waste receptable.

Thorndale Site Option #3 - Prospect Hill

This location is remote, does not have any amenities nor existing parking.

The Committee discussed the sizes of each proposed location and S. MacDonald confirmed he would send the dimensions of each lot after the meeting.

The Committee discussed its members individually visiting the proposed locations over the summer before making a recommendation at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed potentially creating a subcommittee to fundraise for the Memorial Tree Recognition and Heritage Tree Programs.

S. MacDonald confirmed additional information on the proposed locations would be provided at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed different approaches of how to implement the Memorial Tree Recognition Program, and how it might be best to have a centrally located structure to display all the names instead of individual trees planted for specific people.

6. Committee Business

7. Correspondence

7.1 Trees for Life - Tree Planting Partnership

Resolution # EAC-010-25

Moved by: J. Rule

Seconded by: R. John

THAT Correspondence Item 8.a **BE RECEIVED** as information.

Carried.

8. Unfinished Business

No items.

9. New Business

The Committee discussed a local old oak tree that was recently removed and inquired about local tree regulations.

Staff advised that Thames Centre has Tree Planting Guidelines By-law, Middlesex County has a Woodlands Conservation By-law and some areas are regulated by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA).

The Committee inquired about an update on the Tree Planting Program and staff advised that information could be shared at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed the possible expansion of the Thorndale Lions Community Centre and the importance of considering the environment and sustainability in the design of the new building.

Resolution # EAC-011-25

Moved by: P. Kemp

Seconded by: J. Rule

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee **RECOMMEND** that the Thorndale Lions Community Centre Ad Hoc Committee recognize environmental building considerations in their work.

Carried.

10. Scheduling of Meetings

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

11. Adjournment

Resolution # EAC-012-25

Moved by: K. Empey

Seconded by: B. McClure

RESOLVED THAT the meeting **ADJOURN** at 12:39 p.m.

Carried.