



## Minutes

### Municipality of Thames Centre Environmental Advisory Committee

**February 5, 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  
J. Rule, Community Representative

Absent With Regret: R. John, Community Representative  
B. McClure, Community Representative

Staff Present: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer  
S. Henshaw, Recording Secretary

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#### 1. Call To Order

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

#### 2. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest

No items.

#### 3. Previous Minutes

##### 3.1 December 4, 2023

**EAC-001-2024**

**Moved by:** P. Kemp

**Seconded by:** J. Rule

**THAT** the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on December 4, 2023, be received.

**Carried.**

#### 4. Business Arising From Previous Minutes

##### 4.1 Recognition of Land Stewardship

There was discussion on the following:

- Awarding local environmental champions - at an event or Council meeting

- Names, descriptions and qualifications of each award - individual and organization
- Leadership
- Procedure for nominations - committee could make recommendations to Council
- Awards would be given annually
- Encouraging businesses within community to have their own award

**Resolution: EAC-002-2024**

**Moved by:** T. Heeman

**Seconded by:** K. Empey

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends to Council the creation of a recognition program for land stewardship;

**AND THAT** two awards be given on an annual basis:

- Green Champion Award to a qualified individual who has demonstrated excellence in advancing a green initiative and is a resident of Thames Centre; and
- Community Champion Award to a qualified applicant who has demonstrated environmental leadership within a community organization within Thames Centre

**Carried.**

**Resolution: EAC-003-2024**

**Moved by:** J. Rule

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** a third award category be created to award a business that has initiated ongoing environmental initiatives or projects in Thames Centre;

**AND THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

**Carried.**

## **5. Reports of Staff**

No items.

## **6. Committee Business**

### **6.1 Trees in the Municipality**

#### Tree Planting Initiative

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the Tree Planting Plan was approved by Council.

There was discussion on the following:

- Tree planting events already hosted by local Conservation Authorities (CA's)
- Pricing of trees
- Inventory of where trees can be planted
- The need to physically support trees after being planted - depends on size
- Types of trees planted - depends on native species and advice of CA's

#### Heritage Tree Program

There was discussion on the following:

- Does Thames Centre have any heritage trees? If so, where are they, and how would they be selected and protected?
- Heritage Trees Census -
  - Public could submit nominations
  - Committee could determine criteria: species, diameter of trunk, GPS location and reasoning
- Types of land - parkland, CA-owned land, County lands, public and private lands
- Tree Cutting By-law -
  - Enforcement
  - Sub-clause for heritage program

**Resolution: EAC-004-2024**

**Moved by:** T. Heeman

**Seconded by:** J. Rule

**THAT** the Thames Centre Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends the creation of a Heritage Tree Program and to solicit nominations from the public on a nomination form that includes the species identification, the circumference measurement of the tree, GPS location and reasoning for nomination;

**AND THAT** these nominations be considered by the EAC or a subcommittee thereof;

**AND THAT** Thames Centre further consult with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA), Thames Centre parks department, and the County of Middlesex to identify additional trees of significance on public lands.

**Carried.**

There was further discussion on tree planting:

- Staff looking into offering trees for residents to pick up, to plant on own private property
- Staff will coordinate purchase of trees and location for planting - identifying marginalized land where to plant trees
- Possible "Tree Planting Day" (public tree planting event) -
  - Inviting volunteers to help plant trees
  - Public engagement
  - Partnering with local CA's - they have the expertise
  - Consulting with the Thames Centre Special Events Committee (TCSEC)
  - Timing for events
  - Locations of planting - possibly on different types of land, such as gravel pits, marginalized lands, County lands
  - Lots of planning involved – goal of Earth Day 2025

**Resolution: EAC-005-2024**

**Moved by:** T. Heeman

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee consult with the Thames Centre Special Events Committee on the Earth Day 2025 Tree Planting Community Day.

**Carried.**

There was additional discussion on tree planting, with respect to Healing Forests:

- National Healing Forests Initiative - [www.nationalhealingforests.ca](http://www.nationalhealingforests.ca)
- Thames Centre had previously applied for a grant for this but wasn't accepted
- Identifying lands owned by the Municipality - possible locations for a Healing Forest

The Chief Administrative Officer highlighted the work of the Accessibility and Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC).

**Resolution: EAC-006-2024**

**Moved by:** P. Kemp

**Seconded by:** K. Empey

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) consult with the Accessibility & Inclusivity Advisory Committee (AIAC) to consider a joint-recommendation for a National Healing Forest initiative to be implemented in two (2) locations in Thames Centre.

**Carried.**

### Memorial Trees

There was discussion on the following:

- Locations and designated spots
- Memorial benches
- Native species

**Resolution: EAC-007-2024**

**Moved by:** J. Rule

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommend to Council the establishment of a Memorial Tree Recognition program; **AND THAT** Council direct staff to investigate adding this to the current Memorial Bench Policy.

**Carried.**

## **6.2 Topics for Future Meetings**

Committee members suggested the following topics of discussion for future meetings:

- Windmills
- Stormwater taxes
- Salt Management
- Chemicals on Lawns
- Wetlands in
- Light Pollution By-law
- Hosting an Environmental Roundtable -
  - Public discussions on various environmental issues
  - Topics/comments could be submitted beforehand
  - Developing Action Plans
  - Community Engagement
  - Calling it "Green Town Hall"

The Chief Administrative Officer suggested the following topics of discussion for future meetings:

- Building Condition Assessments on municipal buildings –
  - Once complete, grants are available for Energy Audits and implementation
  - Any savings could be put into an Environmental Reserve Fund - reinvest for continued efficiencies
- Vehicle Charging Stations - locations

There was discussion regarding the timing of potential projects and upcoming scheduled committee meetings.

**Resolution: EAC-008-2024**

**Moved by:** P. Kemp

**Seconded by:** T. Heeman

**THAT** a special meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) be called on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the Green Town Hall Meeting.

**Carried.**

**Resolution: EAC-009-2024**

**Moved by:** T. Heeman

**Seconded by:** K. Empey

**THAT** the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommend to Council that the EAC conducts a Green Town Hall in October, for the purposes of soliciting public feedback and input on environmental initiatives pertinent to Thames Centre as a municipality and community.

**Carried.**

In advance of the upcoming Special Meeting to discuss the Green Town Hall Meeting, the Chief Administrative Officer suggested that committee members could start thinking about questions they'd like to ask the community.

**7. Correspondence**

No items.

**8. Unfinished Business**

No items.

**9. New Business**

No items.

**10. Scheduling of Meetings**

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. - Special Meeting

Monday, May 27, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. - Regular Meeting

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss it was:

**Resolution: EAC-010-2024**

**Moved by:** K. Empey

**Seconded by:** P. Kemp

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting adjourn at 12:37 p.m.

**Carried.**