



Meeting Chair – John Birchall

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Approval of Minutes

1. Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2014. p. 1

Recommendation:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2014 be approved.

Correspondence

2. Recommendation:

THAT the correspondence items, previously distributed by e-mail, be received.

Items

3. Discussion regarding Recommendations to 2015 Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee. p. 4
4. Discussion regarding the 2010 - 2014 NEAC Accomplishments.

New Business

Adjournment



The meeting of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 in Mulock Room, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: John Birchall
 Philip Breault
 Jill King
 Dayna Laxton
 Geoff Shore

Absent: Councillor Twinney
 Doug Jagger
 Joanna Parsons

Staff Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

John Birchall in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

None.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of September 10, 2014.

Moved by: Philip Breault
Seconded by: Geoff Shore

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of September 10, 2014 be approved.

Carried

Correspondence

2. Moved by: Dayna Laxton
Seconded by: Geoff Shore

THAT the correspondence items, previously distributed by e-mail, be received.

Carried

Items

3. Ian Gray Award Review.

The Chair advised that Communications staff reviewed and modified the Ian Gray Award brochure, grants application form and annual prize application form. Discussion ensued regarding minor amendments to the documents and next steps for handling the applications should quorum not be achieved at the next meeting.

Moved by: Philip Breault
Seconded by: Geoff Shore

a) THAT the Ian Gray Award brochure, Grant Application Form and Annual Prize Application Form be approved;

b) AND THAT the Ian Gray Award brochure, Grant Application Form and Annual Prize Application Form be posted on the Town's website at www.newmarket.ca

c) AND THAT in the absence of a formal meeting, that the Ian Gray Award applications be distributed by e-mail to all Committee members;

d) AND THAT the Chair, in consultation with Committee members, be authorized to award the grants.

Carried

4. Discussion regarding Recommendations to 2015 Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee.

The list of recommendations to the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee for the 2014-2018 term was reviewed and minor modifications were made.

5. E-Waste Event Post Event Review.

Discussion ensued regarding the E-Waste event. Attendance was significantly down and signage was limited as a result of the election.

6. Discussion regarding Review of the 2010 - 2014 NEAC Accomplishments and Final Meeting Commentary.

Discussion of the NEAC accomplishments was deferred to the final meeting on November 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. A light dinner will be available and all NEAC members from the course of the term to be invited to attend.

New Business

None.

Adjournment

Moved by: Philip Breault
Seconded by: Dayna Laxton

THAT the meeting adjourn.

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Date

John Birchall, Chair

Recommended NEAC Priorities 2015

1. Getting staff person focused on the environment
2. Ensuring community plan deferred for four plus years happens and determine NEAC role in this.
3. Community garden review promised in 2014 happens early in new term and additional two rows at current garden are completed before planting in 2015
4. Establish plans and dates for community outreach events and ensure Deana Smith aware of these.
5. Ensure recommendation for Garbage reduction goes to Council for a decision early in 2015
6. Revised Ian Gray awards plan implemented.

NEAC Recommendations for 2015

1. Overall Managing chair with rotating meeting chairs for experience
2. Decision on what public events and need for volunteers. One responsible for volunteers- list and liaison with the library and Neighbourhood Network. Current focus on Community Garage Sale and E waste collection.
3. Continue with email list or integrate with town's social media. Establish relations with Amanda Lee.
4. One designate to manage finances and work with Dave Ruggle.
5. One individual to manage Ian Gray awards
6. Focus on developing staff relationships and setting priorities- a four year plan that is ambitious but achievable. You cannot be everything to everyone.
7. You are Council's advisory body on environmental issues. Meet with them every six to nine months.
8. Terms- Current challenges are 4/8 years and majority new members. Recommend terms of 2-3 years with reconfirmation for balance of term. Need to ensure continuity for new incoming NEAC.

NEAC Review

Committee Structure

9 members, one Council member, and Director of Public Works and Senior Planner(staff attend once every quarter or more if desired). Chosen by Council on application every Council term for a period of four years.

Simplified Responsibilities Description

- Recommend to Council and staff recommendations on the environment as qualified/semi qualified/interested citizens
- Undertake Public events and promotion to demonstrate environmental responsibility such as Community Garage sales, farmers market displays, e-waste collection events, Earth Hour.

Desired State:

- Committee highly motivated, eager to plan, having fun and making a difference
- Appreciated

Current State:

- Tired, frustrated, but still dedicated to environment
- Not feeling appreciated although don't do volunteering for appreciation

What is Working Well:

- Co-operation with Planning particularly with the secondary plan work,
- Communications assistance
- Co-operative committees like Earth Hour, E-Waste collection

What is Improving:

- Communications with Operations
- Potential Dialogue with Council

What Needs Improvement:

- Co- Ordination of Environment with the whole municipality to set overall goals, determine priorities, set best principles and ensure best financial decisions. Currently all departments have best desires for the environment and decisions are made in silos, without an overall prioritization, and because it seems like a good idea. We are also missing opportunities to learn from other municipalities and potential financial grants.
- Decisions on environmental initiatives need a spokesperson
- We should be benchmarking our progress on environmental issues against comparable municipalities and having environmental accountability reports as a way of post auditing initiatives.
- Having such a co-ordinator will enable the committee to fully help, support and make recommendations through the co-ordinator that are meaningful to both the town and the committee members.
- Two way Communication- Today, NEAC sets it priorities and makes recommendations to Council and staff but rarely ever finds out what happens to these, unless it asks. Examples would be community gardens where in 2013/14, it dropped off staff priorities when Council members and NEAC were waiting for a reply. Suggest a section be added to the committee agenda to list all things forwarded to Council, these to remain on agenda each month until finalized.
- If Council only wants a feel good but not meaningful committee it should discontinue NEAC
- Community Environment plan-part of PCP should be funded and completed during the next term of Council
- Focus on climate change and potential impacts/need for plans as a result of increasing swings with wilder storms resulting from climate change. 50 and 100 year stroms will become more prevalent.
- See also NEAC priorities and Recommendations