

The meeting of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 in the Mulock Room, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket.

Members Present: Councillor Vegh
John Birchall
Michelle Bourdeau
Cathie Ethier
Nicole Hamley
David Kempton, Chair
Jill King
Petra Vollmerhausen

Absent: Stephanie Sales

Staff Present: J. Slykhuis, Senior Environmental Coordinator
C. Finnerty, Council/Committee Coordinator

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

D. Kempton in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

None.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Presentations

1. Ms. Ashley Hoskin, Conservation Program Coordinator, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Limited addressed the Committee regarding energy conservation programs offered by Newmarket-Tay Hydro and provided an overview of energy saving programs, including coupons and conservation programs, residential, commercial and industrial programs. Discussion ensued regarding the Town's energy plan, provincial plans and linkages between those plans and the efforts of Newmarket-Tay Hydro,

Moved by: J. Birchall
Seconded by: N. Hamley

THAT the presentation by Ms. Ashley Hoskin, Conservation Program Coordinator, Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Limited regarding energy conservation programs be received.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

2. Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of September 7, 2016.

Moved by: P. Vollmerhausen
Seconded by: C. Ethier

THAT the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of September 7, 2016 be approved.

Carried

Correspondence

Moved by: P. Vollmerhausen
Seconded by: N. Hamley

THAT the correspondence, previously distributed by email be received.

Carried

Items

3. Membership

Discussion ensued regarding retention and recruitment of members.

4. Public Engagement and Environmental Events

- a) E-Waste Event

J. Birchall provided an update on the E-Waste event, which took place at the Upper Canada Mall on Saturday, October 22, 2017. He advised that over 12,000 pounds of e-waste was collected, with more cars than

previous years through the site. The increase in cars versus decrease in e-waste was attributed to social media ads and smaller, lower weight electronic devices. Discussion ensued regarding holding a bi-annual event and other outreach methods.

b) ClimateWise Launch Event

C. Ethier provided an overview of the webinar event details and she advised she would distribute the launch event materials.

c) Ian Gray Environmental Award

N. Hamley advised that she provided the Eco-school representatives with information for potential project submissions.

d) Discussion ensued regarding Committee participation at public environmental events and the associated challenges.

5. Implementation of Stormwater Charge Discussion.

J. Birchall read from a prepared brief regarding the Town's recent implementation of a stormwater charge.

NEAC should be consulted at an early date formally for comments before final decisions have been made and an action team formed for implementation.

The major area of analysis was in the area of residential considered to be in the medium runoff category. NEAC supports the commercial/industrial/institutional credit programme, but would ask for consideration of not only quantity but quality of runoff, so that commercial contaminants such as salt can be addressed at the same time.

NEAC Members are of the opinion that there may be an inequity in the proposed system where newer residential development has paid for newer and updated infrastructure related to stormwater and may for a number of years having to in fact subsidize older, less taxed residential areas which are deficient/need maintenance to their infrastructure. Also, using lot size might impact older areas of the town (with larger lot sizes) and result in charges above the averages shown in the report.

NEAC believes strongly a residential incentive programme is necessary as we are trying to drive behaviour here and not penalize those who make the decision to implement actions on their properties that impact/minimize runoff. We need to encourage more actions in this area as we face growing impacts of climate change.

While NEAC recognizes there is "no financial incentive to reduce runoff", we do believe there may be better ways than paying residential financial incentives with all the staff time and costs involved.

That might be able to be done through a partnership arrangement with a Chamber of Commerce merchant(s) where residents who have completed , say two or more tasks, like using a rain barrel are offered special coupons for discounted purchase of things that can be used to further reduce runoff. They get an incentive that is meaningful, encourages more efforts to reduce runoff, but management costs are simplified.

Looking at this to the future, increased soil fill depth in new/infill lots will help absorption, and the use of active storm water ponds like the ones that were created in the area of Town known as the Stonehaven area can significantly mitigate the costs of reclaiming/cleaning the existing pond infrastructure. Also steps to consider alternative methods to paving in site plan agreements should be investigated to increase absorption and reduce runoff.

Moved by: C. Ethier
Seconded by: N. Hamley

THAT the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee supports the comments referenced above related to the Stormwater Charge Implementation.

Carried

6. Discussion regarding the Newmarket Energy Plan

J. Birchall has followed up with staff on the Community Energy Plan and advised that the plan is currently idle pending budget allocation.

7. Verbal Report from the Senior Environmental Coordinator regarding an environmental projects update.

The Senior Environmental Coordinator advised that the Low Impact Development tender for the Ray Twinney Recreational Complex has closed and is currently under review with the Procurement Services Department. She advised that references will be checked and the tender award should be announced shortly for the project to commence.

8. NEAC Mid-Term Check-in

Discussion ensued regarding the Committee Members experience to date and the following observations were documented:

- *Lack of engagement of Committee members by Council or staff*
- *Lack of feedback opportunities/input of Committee members not sought on critical policy and environmental projects*
- *Committee members have various focus areas and interests that differ from the NEAC mandate*
- *Lack of follow up and assurances; NEAC recommendations not implemented or enforced (for example, banning plastic water bottles from Town facilities)*
- *Feeling idle and frustrated; desire to work on tangible projects as opposed to policy matters*
- *Unclear expectations*
- *Need for the dissemination of information from the Town to the community in order to influence and change resident behaviour*
- *Need for a review and reprioritization of the workplan*
- *Discussion re: role of the committee and whether it should continue*
- *Consensus that the informal meeting was most productive*
- *Desire to develop a Newmarket Environment Club with a less rigid structure (community based approach as opposed to Council directed tasks)*
- *Need for a Newmarket Environmental Plan*

New Business

- a) D. Kempton advised that Cycle Newmarket has produced their first newsletter which is available on Facebook.
- b) M. Boudreau advised that the Urban Forest Council Workshop is scheduled for Friday November 4, 2016 and some of the agenda items are the state of infrastructure, panel discussion on tree protection policies and the honeybee habitat in Markham, Ontario.

Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Vegh
Seconded by: Petra Vollmerhausen

THAT the meeting adjourn.

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date

D. Kempton, Chair