

# **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