

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

Members Present: Cathie Ethier, Chair
Councillor Sponga
Michelle Bourdeau
Nicole Hamley
David Kempton
Petra Vollmerhausen

Absent: John Birchall
Jill King

Staff Present: C. Schritt, Traffic Technician
J. Slykhuys, Senior Environmental Coordinator
C. Finnerty, Council/Committee Coordinator

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

Cathie Ethier in the Chair.

Additions & Corrections to the Agenda

The Chair advised of the Addendum item, being a deputation by Mr. John Blommesteijn regarding results of a Freedom of Information Request related to e-Bikes.

Moved by: Councillor Sponga
Seconded by: Nicole Hamley

THAT the addendum item be included in the agenda.

Carried

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None.

Presentations & Deputations

1. Mr. John Blommestein addressed the Committee with the results of his Freedom of Information Request related to e-Bikes and summarized his findings. He distributed the sign-out logs for the e-Bike and suggested that the apparatus is not being appropriately utilized. He recommended that the Committee look to recommend that staff draft a policy to increase use of the e-Bike. Discussion ensued regarding the current use of the e-Bike and associated health and safety considerations.

Moved by: Councillor Sponga

Seconded by: David Kempton

THAT the deputation by Mr. John Blommestein regarding results of a Freedom of Information Request related to e-Bikes be received.

Carried

2. Ms. Christine Glenn and Ms. Jen Turla, Blue Dot York Region addressed the Committee with a verbal presentation summarizing the work of the Blue Dot Movement, including the project background and goals, environmental statistics and the Town's role to advance the project's goals. Discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the declaration and next steps.

Moved by: Councillor Sponga

Seconded by: David Kempton

a) THAT the deputation by Ms. Christine Glenn and Ms. Jen Turla, Blue Dot York Region be received and the following recommendations be forwarded to Council:

i) WHEREAS the Town of Newmarket understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

ii) NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Town of Newmarket finds and declares that:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:

- The right to breathe clean air
- The right to drink clean water
- The right to consume safe food
- The right to access nature
- The right to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment
- The right to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment

The Town of Newmarket has the responsibility, within its jurisdiction, to respect, protect, fulfill and promote these rights.

2. The Town of Newmarket shall apply the precautionary principle: where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the Town shall take cost effective measures to prevent the degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens. Lack of full scientific certainty shall not be viewed as sufficient reason for the Town to postpone such measures.

3. The Town of Newmarket shall apply full cost accounting; when evaluating reasonably foreseeable costs of proposed actions and alternatives, the Town will consider costs to human health and the environment.

4. The Town of Newmarket shall specify objectives, targets and timelines and actions that the Town of Newmarket will take, within its jurisdiction, to fulfill residents' right to a healthy environment, including priority actions to:

- a. Ensure infrastructure and development projects protect the environment, including air quality;
- b. Address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing adaptation measures;
- c. Responsibly increase density;
- d. Prioritize walking, cycling and public transit as preferred modes of transportation;
- e. Reduce solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
- f. Establish and maintain accessible green spaces in all residential neighbourhoods.

The Town shall review the objectives, targets, timelines and actions every five (5) years, and evaluate progress towards fulfilling this declaration and consult with residents as part of this process.

iii) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town shall send a letter to the provincial government calling for a public review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights in order to improve the Act and to include recognition that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment. The Town will also send a letter to the federal government calling for the development of federal legislation that recognizes that all people have the right to live in a healthy environment.

Carried

3. Ms. Michelle Dudzik, Community Engagement Coordinator, Regional Municipality of York addressed the Committee with a verbal presentation summarizing York Region's current environmental programs and initiatives being the Greener Home and Garden Seminars, York Region Children's Water Festival, Good Food Campaign, Water Is Campaign, Right Plant, Right Place, Educating our Youth, Fats, Oils and Grease Campaign (FOG) and the OWCA – I Don't Flush Campaign. Discussion ensued regarding discontinuing the use of plastic water bottles and opportunities to repurpose ash wood impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Moved by: Petra Vollmerhausen
Seconded by: David Kempton

THAT the presentation by Ms. Michelle Dudzik, Community Engagement Coordinator, Regional Municipality of York summarizing York Region's current environmental programs and initiatives be received.

Carried

Approval of Minutes

4. Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of December 9, 2015.

Moved by: Petra Vollmerhausen
Seconded by: Nicole Hamley

THAT the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of December 9, 2015 be approved.

Carried

Correspondence

Moved by: Councillor Sponga
Seconded by: Michelle Bourdeau

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

Carried

Items

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

The Senior Environmental Coordinator provided a verbal update on a Low Impact Design retrofit project at the Ray Twinney Complex and advised of inclusions on the Town's website related to Low Impact Development and Stormwater Management.

Moved by: Councillor Sponga
Seconded by: Nicole Hamley

THAT the Verbal Report from the Senior Environmental Coordinator regarding an environmental projects update be received.

Carried

6. NEAC Workplan

The Committee discussed its workplan and a suggestion was made to have a representative from Public Works Services attend a future meeting in order to address questions related to the Town's lighting program. Project updates to be forwarded to the Council/Committee Coordinator for inclusion in the next workplan update.

Moved by: Michelle Bourdeau
Seconded by: Nicole Hamley

THAT the NEAC Workplan be approved and forwarded to Council for consideration.

Carried

7. Update regarding Earth Hour events

Councillor Sponga provided a verbal update on the War of the Wards pledge and additional events taking place in support of Earth Hour.

8. Committee and Working Group Updates

- a) Municipal Energy Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Update.

Discussion ensued regarding development of a district energy utility for thermal heating, energy upgrades and impacts on rates.

New Business

- a) Councillor Sponga verbally advised of a farm in King Township that is currently breeding a Canadian chicken variety.
- b) P. Vollmerhausen reminded Committee members of the Regional Environmental Advisory Committee meeting be held on March 30, 2016.
- c) P. Vollmerhausen provided an update on Community Garage Sale plans and advised that the sale is tentatively scheduled for May 28, 2016. Discussion ensued regarding event advertising, vendor participation and day of details.
- d) D. Kempton advised that an IdeaMarket event regarding Climate Change will be taking place on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Newmarket Public Library.

Adjournment

Moved by: Nicole Hamley
Seconded by: David Kempton

THAT the meeting adjourn.

Carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Date

Cathie Ethier, Chair