

Item 2 of the Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee Minutes of March 2, 2016 regarding the Blue Dot Movement.

The Operational Leadership Team recommends:

a) THAT the following matter be received.

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.