



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee
Minutes
January 8th, 2024
630 pm
Erin Town Hall, lower-level meeting room / Zoom

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Martin Rudd, Christina Green, Chris Tynan, Julie René de Cotret, and Gavin Dandy

Absent: Matthew Cameron, Sarbpreet Bopairai, and Jen Edwards

Guest: Chris Vernon

1. Call to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Chris Tynan

Seconded by Gavin Dandy

Carried

3. Declaration Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Adoption of Minutes of December 11th, 2023

Wording of item 5.1

ESAC endorses the submission to the Green standards from the Erin Citizen Climate Lobby to add to the Green development standards recommendation for heat pumps (which also serve as air conditioners) in all

new Town of Erin homes to preclude the need for natural gas in new developments.

Item 5.1 was seconded by John Brennan

Motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Moved by John Brennan

Seconded by Abel Page

Carried

5. Business Items

5.1 Climate change Policy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory

Baseline data was obtained and will continue to be shared, so that we can observe trends over time. Due to regional borders, some rural addresses are not included. N0B 1T0 and N0B 1Z0 will be used for the collection of data since these addresses are entirely contained within the town of Erin.

5.2 Potential grants writing and application

The grant titled *Ontario Community Environment Fund* is now closed. Julie will continue to research environmental grant opportunities. The Green Municipal Fund requires a new, innovative idea and 50% municipal funding.

5.3 Clean up kit project

Project has not yet been shared with the council. ESAC was encouraged to present the project to the council themselves.

5.4 Earth Day 2024

The event will occur at the Center 2000, in the rink pad, which will allow more space for vendors and the electric vehicle display. The cost for the rental is approximately 300 dollars. Previous vendors were contacted. There will be garbage pick-up in the morning along with a BBQ provided for volunteers.

Committee members will be needed throughout the day to coordinate the events (ie. prize raffle & ESAC table). Abel will circulate a list of positions closer to the date.

5.5 ESAC Grant 2024

The committee members reviewed that the grant is targeted towards school aged children to help fund an environmental initiative. The template was circulated to all committee members. As a next step, it should be shared with schools.

5.6 Presentation to Council + Questions for County Councillor 6.

Presentation to Council

Christina will recirculate the previous presentation for feedback and discussion. It was suggested that an electronic copy of the ESAC presentation for council be also sent to the county. This will be discussed further at the next meeting, with Jeff Duncan in attendance.

Concerns for County Councillor

1. Discuss the implementation of permanent regional turtle signs on established turtle populations.
2. Discuss the lack of bike lanes on regional roads within the community.

3. Discuss limiting the use of road salt on regional roads, as it can greatly impact the salinity and endanger aquatic ecosystems.

Questions and concerns regarding the construction of the new development should be shared with Dig Erin.

6. Other Business

Concerns were shared regarding whether the new developments in Erin are located within the Green belt.

Seedy Saturday will be occurring March 9th. ESAC is looking for a volunteer to help operate the ESAC booth. Martin will bring the banner and turtle signs.

The town will communicate that ESAC is looking for members on an ongoing basis. Formal positions will be discussed during our next meeting.

Committee member survey results will be shared next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting (February 12th, 2024)

8. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:42PM.

Moved by Chris Tynan
Seconded by Christina Green

Carried