



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes

December 9th, 2024

630 pm

ONLINE ONLY (inclement weather)

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Martin Rudd, Mikaela Pagotto, Jen Edwards, Emma Tynan, Gavin Dandy

Town Staff: Nina Lecic, Bridget Ryan

Other: Liz Armstrong

Absent: Valerie Chhokar, Sarbpreet Boparai, Chris Tynan

1. **Call to Order 6:31pm**

The Chair called to order at 6:34 pm

Carried

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Gavin Dandy

Seconded by John Brennan

Carried

3. **Declaration Pecuniary Interest**

None

4. **Adoption of Minutes of October 7th, 2024**

Moved by Able Page

Seconded by Martin Rudd

Carried

5. **Business Items**

5.1 **ESAC presentation and introduction to Town staff (with Nina Lecic, Town Clerk and Councillor Bridget Ryan) (strategic plan & green standards)**

- Introduction from Nina Lecic
 - Purpose of Visit: Enhance collaboration and provide tools/resources for advisory committees to connect with the Town.
 - Goals:
 - Attend committee meetings to understand evolution and provide support.
 - Focus on green standards/charter – ongoing initiatives and areas for improvement.
 - Committees are encouraged to provide specific input on green standards development.

- Key Challenge: Strengthen connection and communication between committees and the Town (bridge the communication gap)
- Councillor Bridget Ryan Introduction
 - Interested in advancing sustainability on all levels (economic, environmental... etc)
 - Promotes improved communication between advisory committees and Town staff
 - Future Engagement: Director of Community Services (Parks and Recreation) – Jenn, will join future sessions.
- Committee Policy/Mandate – Potential Updates
 - Terms of Reference are outdated and need updating to reflect current roles and activities.
 - Propose easy cross-committee communication, such as agenda sharing.
 - Explore task force models and new pathways for involvement.
 - Town Commitment: Review and update Terms of Reference for alignment with committee goals.
- Committee Policy/Mandate – Potential Updates
 - Terms of Reference are outdated and need updating to reflect current roles and activities.
 - Propose easy cross-committee communication, such as agenda sharing.
 - Explore task force models and new pathways for involvement.
 - Town Commitment: Review and update Terms of Reference for alignment with committee goals.
- ESAC Presentation (prepared and presented by Abel)
 - Overview of current initiatives: Earth Day organization, Youth Environmental Grant, environmental awareness programs (such as turtle signs), successful garbage cleanup kit rollout (with plans for replication), develop a booth kit for 2025 to attend more community events
 - Challenges: lack of clarity and resources for green standards, limited resources allocated to environmental sustainability despite strong statements
 - Going beyond our “advisory” role: focus on reducing GHG emissions, water preservation, food security, green development standards, and land conservation & develop a yearly activity plan and enhance advisory capacity to council.
- Discussion
 - Town staff to bring relevant agenda items and technical expertise to support committees.
 - Improve communication for effective collaboration (e.g., grant applications)
 - Town should advocate for sustainability topics at county-level discussions
 - Leverage grassroots initiatives (e.g., Tree Trust) and actively share across committees via engagement with Town staff and council

5.2 ESAC Budget brief to Council – Response and Follow-up

- White Paper – Budget Brief to Council Discussion
 - CAO response was the first time – good news
 - Submit earlier next year (mid 2025 for 2026 budget)
 - Abel and Mikaela to draft a response to send to the group
 - Determine as a Committee our next steps and define clear action items to meet our goals
- Budget Increase
 - Potential increase to \$3000
 - Nina to confirm with Wendy and provide a follow-up
- Frame Challenges as Opportunities
 - Address the Committee and CAO's concerns in the email response by reframing environmental initiatives as opportunities rather than obligations.
 - Highlight that sustainability doesn't necessarily require more funding but offers innovative approaches.
- *Develop a charter to enhance communication processes (next meeting?)*

5.3 Communication update social media and website

- No update (absent)

5.4 Green directory

- No major update
 - Erin complete, others in progress
- Suggest to start launch on website with just Town of Erin businesses (can even be a partial list)– trial and error, receive feedback
- Abel to send Nina the old one (as well as the introduction presentation)
- Green suggestions for the magazine? (Marina)

5.5 Greenhouse gases inventory

- No major update
 - Town facilities and equipment (completed)
 - Community and business partners (in progress)
- Abel to send to Nina what we have - how can the Town assist

5.6 Event booth – Earth Day 2025

- Emma sent Committee an email summary a few weeks ago: \$1000 for a kit (CA company) that includes a tablecloth, canopy, and signage
 - Develop a logo and have a high resolution image to provide
 - Emma to collaborate with Valerie to make our logo high res (or is ours currently sufficient?)
- *Next meeting: Collectively put together a calendar of events we would be attending for 2025. Where do we want to be present?*
- Abel to send Nina the logo for Town inventory
- Earth Day 2025 – **UPDATE**
 - Chamber of commerce is open to collaborating with us this year
 - Event Options

- Vendors across 3 days (such as Guelph Solar, heat pump companies, the County etc) - \$\$
- Saturday transitional space reservation – we could be present all 3 but our guest vendors just the Saturday
- Host our own in June with garbage cleanup on Earth Day
 - With march garbage cleanup
- Jenn to order the trees
- Abel to sit down with the chamber of commerce and see how this will logistically function
 - How many vendors for the day
 - How much would it cost
 - What does advertisement look like to ensure the goal of earth day is projected
 - Coordinated effort to have the garbage cleanup? Town should promote the cleanup as well

5.7 Committee functioning – creation of an activity list

- Sub committee – who is on this, what is it for?
- (workplan) Excel spreadsheet – Martin to create columns to organize (name, topic, task)
- (workplan) Mikaela and Martin to get the content in the excel spreadsheet started
- (new and ongoing) Mikaela to email list of action items after each meeting

6. Other Business

- Approve spending items
 - Signs – \$452.00 (50 signs) – \$330.00 (credit) =
 - Martin notes Abel owes \$122

Carried

7. Date of Next Meeting (January 13th, 2025)

8. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 PM

Moved by Martin Rudd

Seconded by Abel Page

Carried