



Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 13th, 2025

630 pm

Erin Town Hall, lower-level meeting room / Zoom

Present: John Brennan, Abel Page, Martin Rudd, Mikaela Pagotto, Jen Edwards, Chris Tynan, Valerie Chhokar

Town Staff: Jenn McPetrie (Director of Community Services)

Absent: Emma Tynan, Gavin Dandy

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by John Brennan

Carried

3. Declaration Pecuniary Interest

None.

4. Adoption of Minutes of December

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by Mikaela Pagotto

Carried

5. Adoption of Minutes of December

5.1 ESAC Budget brief to Council – Follow - up

- Introduction from Jenn M
 - Attending with Nina (anticipating alternating attendance) in supporting the enhancement of collaboration between the committee and Council and provide tools/resources for advisory committees to connect with the Town
- Group agreed to sending the email response to the CAO prepared by Abel and Mikaela

5.2 Green Directory

- No update
- Summary for Jenn M: directory to provide easy access to the green businesses and services available locally and within the Town

5.3 Green Directory

- No update
- Summary for Jenn M: ESAC wants to be more present in the community so we are preparing a kit in order to be that we are prepared to go to any event at any moment throughout the year
- **Action:** Abel meeting with the Chamber of Commerce coming up (not yet booked) – if the group has any questions share them with Abel so we can address
 - How many vendors we can have?
 - What is our location within the event and what is our square footage?
 - Is there electricity?
 - Can we share social handles?
 - What is the cost for us and our vendors?
 - Martin can create a larger display to 'green us up'
 - If weather is okay, EVs would be great to have to be exhibited (or cornered against the building)
 - Could have a speaker, presenter, or visual representation of some kind (composter, solar panel etc)
 - Our budget for this: approximately 1000 dollars
- If we do not collaborate with the home show for Earth Day...
 - Cleanup can still occur in April at Centre 2000 but have our own formal event in June
 - For the cleanup we would need:
 - Bin
 - Pickers
 - Gloves
 - Beverages/food
 - **Note:** last years Earth day leftovers to be put in the community fridge by Abel (all in favour – Moved by John Brennan)
- **List of Volunteers (last years signup)**
 - Volunteer database to be updated

5.4 Committee functioning – Activity list review

- Martin and Mikaela prepared document to track our work, provide updates, and record goals (**Action:** Mikaela to upload the document to the shared drive)

6. Other Business

- Use of human waste as fertilizer (withing the West Guelph area and South of Guelph)
 - Concern: waste is human and industrial waste and contaminates (human waste and start spraying it which is then going into our system)
 - Over the next few months Chris is doing more research and his friend Dorris may come to speak on it if that is okay (*Note: ESAC interested - in favour of having present*)
 - **Action:** Chris to provide some dates where she is available to join a meeting
- Committee recruiting: on January 23rd Council session agenda
 - In March we will review roles for the committee
- Recycling education
 - How to dispose waste
 - We should have this from the Town or County for our event table/in our booth kit as educational pamphlets to hand out to residents

- Can include a mini composter as a visual
- Early mention: fall cleanup (proposed by Jenn)
 - Consider a second cleanup in the fall after the fair (around the Town within the community)
 - Could potentially meet at the booth that will be setup at the Agricultural Society
 - Yellow bags would be about \$300-400 if we did that approach rather than the bin
 - **Action:** Mikaela to add to our committee tracker
- Blue Triton – leaving Canada
 - Town of Erin looking for new wells for water
 - Can we use blue triton well as a new source of water instead of digging the new proposed well in one of the wellhead protection areas?
 - All our wells are on 1 aquifer – concern about how all wells rely for recharge from this one source
 - How would we be able to go about this
 - Time sensitive environmental work
 - **Action:** Abel creating document with different links to talk about the environmental concern
 - We need to stay on top of this and the updates
- **Action:** Mikaela sending Clean Air Partnership (CAP) Municipal Climate Action 101 course information and notes
- Jenn ordered 200 trees for Earth Day (April)
- Tree Trust: Chris Vernon
 - Interested in Erin
 - Martin steered them CVC and Guelph arboretum
 - Educational and how to protect, treat, and care for older trees
 - Tree trimming information and educate arborists and teach community about how to plant a tree and woodlot management – protection and treatment for older trees
 - Is interested to present at one of our meetings – group is not interested

7. Date of next meeting (February 10th, 2025)

8. Adjournment

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Moved by Abel Page

Seconded by Mikaela Pagotto

Carried