



Brock Environmental Advisory Committee

Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present: Jennifer Cowan, Eugenia Catroppa, Vice Chair, Ildi Connor, Cria Pettingill

Absent: Candace Ramshaw, Penny Beaudrow

Staff Present: Debbie Vandenakker, Planner; Deena Hunt, Deputy Clerk (recording the minutes)

1. Call to Order

Chair Cowan called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Cria Pettingill, that the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

4. Hearing of Deputations

None

5. General Items

- 1) Selection of Priority Initiatives / Workplan
 - a. Anti-Idling By-law attached for reference

Chair Cowan enquired as to the top 5 initiatives selected from the Let's Talk Brock project evaluation table (matrix) to which Ms. Vandenakker advised that the top priorities from the responses received were incorporated into the draft proposed workplan and provided a screen share view outlining the workplan with the following items:

Top Priorities identified by the committee:

1. Review No Idling Bylaw
 2. Plant native species trees for birds and pollinators (coordinates with Committee of the Whole Resolution to partner with Beaverton Horticultural Society for tree planting and restoration of habitat)
 3. Promotion of zero-carbon landscapes (no mow, no blow)
 4. Zero plastic Brock
 5. Garbage separation in all public areas
 6. Safe bike routes to schools
- Deborah Pearson education session at Council
 - Council/Committee of the Whole resolutions:
 - Requested staff report on how to implement conditions to be designated a Blue Community
 - Requested staff report addressing green initiatives with respect to Town of Whitby's single use recyclables correspondence
 - Requested staff to create a Climate Emergency Declaration for Brock (similar to the Region's and City of Pickering)
 - Requested staff to connect with community groups to consider if purchasing water refill stations in all 3 towns is feasible (utilizing green initiative funding)
 - Requested staff report on potential projects to partner with Beaverton Horticultural Society for their 100th Anniversary in 2022
 - That staff and BEAC review the Tatham Stormwater Management Plan with respect to the costs involved and prioritizing implementation

The committee held a discussion which included:

1. No Idling Bylaw – positive reinforcement signage for installation at the township entry points, parks, schools, and arenas as well as public awareness through newspaper and social media. The committee discussed options for wording on signs. Councillor Pettingill advised that the Idling By-law would be handled on a complaint basis.
2. Plant native species trees/Beaverton Horticultural Society to partner – areas for planting could be around existing walking trails and ball diamonds with the Beaverton Horticultural Society recommending the tree species. Consider using high school students needing volunteer hours, initiate public awareness through newspaper and social media highlighting the invasive species.
3. Promotion of zero-carbon landscapes (no mow, no blow) – create landscapes that do not require mowing, public education campaign, trial of no mowing during key bird nesting periods. Showcase public demonstrations of re-wilding, create a 'wild garden society' that offers an award such as "Blue Ribbon Yard", hold re-wilding contests, coordinate with the plans for Beaverton harbourfront. Ms. Connor and Councillor Pettingill advised that the horticultural societies offer awards for re-wilding. Ms. Vandenakker advised that Property Standards By-law should be considered to avoid complaints. The committee advised that the Property Standards By-law should be updated to include re-wilding stewardship.
4. Zero plastic Brock – removal of bottled water from all municipal buildings on a priority basis, change water fountains to water refill stations, consider water refill stations at walking trails and ball diamonds. Encourage grocers to stop using plastic bags.

5. Garbage separation in all public areas – committee determined that this item was not feasible as people would not sort garbage properly and the Cannington Horticultural Society is hosting a youth challenge for painting garbage cans.
6. Safe bike routes to schools – increase crossing guards on main routes to encourage walking and cycling to schools. Township to consider cost to budget. Public awareness campaign. Ms. Hunt advised of the challenges of retaining crossing guards and the cost to the budget to which Councillor Pettingill agreed. Committee discussed alternate ideas which included mapping and painting biking routes/areas and getting volunteer crossing guards.

There was discussion with respect to agricultural re-wilding, the lack of incentives for farmers, and the need for further research as well as support from Council. Committee advised that re-wilding could occur without a large impact to the budget.

Ms. Vandenakker advised that the committee mandate provides direction and noted that a list of short term and long term priority projects could be created noting that re-wilding could be considered a medium to long term item to which Councillor Pettingill agreed.

Ms. Vandenakker advised that a budget is required for public education campaigns in the newspaper which would require Council approval. The Deputy Clerk advised that the committee would adopt a resolution to request funds from Council's budget.

The committee discussed the need for timelines to determine who is leading which initiatives, creating a list of native or invasive species for inclusion in the public awareness campaigns, and the possibility of utilizing resources through the newspaper for environmental advertisements.

Committee discussion continued:

- Council/Committee of the Whole resolutions:
 - Requested staff report on how to implement conditions to be designated a Blue Community
 - Requested staff report addressing green initiatives with respect to Town of Whitby's single use recyclables correspondence
 - Requested staff to create a Climate Emergency Declaration for Brock (similar to the Region's and City of Pickering) – Councillor Pettingill advised that staff are currently preparing a report on this. The committee discussed King City's Climate Emergency Statement which addresses housing retrofits, solar panels, and water retention systems. Ms. Vandenakker advised that the Planning Act determines the type of housing built and that developers must meet the requirements of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Concerns were expressed for developers being held accountable for their effect on Lake Simcoe and wildlife.
 - Requested staff to connect with community groups to consider if purchasing water refill stations in all 3 towns is feasible (utilizing green initiative funding) – see Top Priorities Number 4.
 - Requested staff report on potential projects to partner with Beaverton Horticultural Society for their 100th Anniversary in 2022 – see Top Priorities Number 2.

- That staff and BEAC review the Tatham Stormwater Management Plan with respect to the costs involved and prioritizing implementation

Moved by Eugenia Catroppa that the Brock Climate Emergency Declaration consider the concerns of BEAC that developers be held accountable for their impact on Lake Simcoe in alignment with King City's statement of Climate Emergency.

MOTION CARRIED

- 2) Review the timing for Workplan approval and the Presentation to Committee of the Whole or Council

Ms. Hunt advised that the workplan must be approved by Council prior to the committee acting upon it, and BEAC could provide a presentation to the Committee of the Whole on November 8 at 10:00 a.m. or December 6 at 10:00 a.m.; Council on November 22 at 5:00 p.m. or December 20 at 5:00 p.m.

- 3) Review Let's Talk Brock

The Planner advised that Let's Talk Brock provides a repository for documents and has engagement tools. The committee supported the continued use of this application.

- 4) Next Steps

As above.

6. Other Items & Inquiries

- 1) New Business

The committee acknowledged attendee Sandra Bannon.

The committee discussed the importance of regenerative/biodiversity in agriculture, that it could provide benefits to traditional farming, and the need to provide incentives to farmers.

Moved by Eugenia Catroppa that the BEAC workplan include biodiversity in agriculture.

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Cowan requested that future agenda items be forwarded to her via email.

- 2) Next Meeting Date – Thursday, August 12, 2021

7. Adjournment

Moved by Ildi Connor that committee adjourn at 6:47 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED