



The Corporation of The Town of Cobourg
Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee
MINUTES

October 6, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Electronic Participation

Members Present: Minnie de Jong, Chair
Anthony Pitts, Vice-Chair
Councillor Adam Bureau
Marius Marsh
John Vickers
Therese Hutchinson
Freya Fernandes

Staff Present: Brent Larmer, Municipal Clerk / Manager of Legislative Services
Linda Gregg, Sustainable Cobourg Representative
Pam Lancaster, Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Representative

Staff Absent: Krystal Christopher, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Minnie de Jong, called the Meeting to Order at 2:00 P.M.

2. TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Chair, Minnie de Jong, recited the Traditional Land Acknowledgment Statement

3. APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Moved by Marius Marsh

THAT the Agenda dated October 6, 2021, be approved as presented.

Carried

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no Declarations of Interest Declared by Committee Members.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Freya Fernandes

THAT the minutes dated September 1, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

7. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

8. REPORTS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Resolution to Council re Cobourg hiring an Environmental Officer

9.2 Resolution to Council re BAC's Cobourg Cycling Infrastructure Completion Proposal

9.3 Presentation by Pam Lancaster of the GRCA and member of the SCEAC

Pam Lancaster and Corey Harris of the GRCA provided a detailed presentation to the Committee that was followed by a question and answer period. The presentation was concluded at 2:37 P.M. and Mr. Harris was excused from the meeting.

9.4 Cobourg's 2022 Budget

Moved by Freya Fernandes

WHEREAS on Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Regular Council Meeting of December 2, 2019 through Resolution No. 484-19; and

WHEREAS the need to address the Climate Emergency is ever more urgent as is clear in the recently released ICCP report ;

WHEREAS global heating is an emergency of a worse scale than the pandemic; with more severe and long lasting consequences; and

WHEREAS Cobourg Council approved a Climate Action Plan in principle to mitigate global heating by reducing and removing sources of GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS global heating has negative effects on the health of citizen and outdoor workers, municipal infrastructure, and watershed ecosystems for which an adaptation plan is needed to better manage and reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of global heating:

- extreme heat is a risk to citizen and outdoor worker health, the health of trees, causes softening/deterioration of standard road asphalt, communication wires to sag, etc
- flooding, high winds, freezing rain, drought can damage physical infrastructure (roads/culverts and bridges, storm water systems, water supply and sewage treatment systems, building roofs and basements, energy supply systems, communication networks, river banks, etc); causes tree damage; loss of transportation and communication services;
- milder winters results in increased/new pests and disease such as those affecting tree health, and more changes in freeze/thaw cycles cause can damage to infrastructure
- extreme variability in flooding, drought, and heat affects our ecosystem and water quality

WHEREAS it is more cost effective to implement mitigation and adaptation measures proactively than to address the impacts after they have occurred (In 2012 the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy estimated that every \$1 spent now on adaptation will yield between \$9 and \$38 worth of avoided damages in the future), and

NOW THEREFORE the SCCAC Recommends that:

WHEREAS Cobourg is in the process of preparing its 2022 Budget;

- When approving 2022 budget allocations for various Departments that Council advise staff that when they come to Council later in the year for approval of funding for specific undertakings such as a new road, parking lot, vehicle(s), sewer/water system upgrade, changes to its communication infrastructure, the planting of trees, etc., that staff show Council that their request reflect the most sustainable option for that undertaking from both a climate mitigation and climate adaptation perspective; and that;
- Cobourg include an allowance based on an estimate from staff in its 2022 budget to cover the possibility of an initial increased cost of

choosing an environmentally sustainable option ; or delay its budget approval schedule by one month to allow staff to provide the cost for the most sustainable option; and that

Cobourg make it a priority for 2022, including ensuring sufficient staff resources such as having an Environmental Expert on staff in 2022, to begin work on the preparation of a Cobourg Climate Adaptation Plan including:

- contacting those with whom it should partner (e.g. Ganaraska Regional Conservation Authority,, Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit, Northumberland County, Lakefront Utilities, etc) ;
- identifying whether and what experts might be needed to assist with developing such a plan, and
- determining the budget amount Cobourg should include in its 2023 budget.

Carried

9.5 Climate Emergency Adaptation Measures

Chair De Jong explained the topic discussion and the development of a adaptation plan for a Climate Emergency. Member Hutchinson explained research that was conducted with the City of London who is helping to address food security in the Urban Area. At the City there was a mandate to review policy to find out where barriers are to encourage resilience behaviors with respect to food security. The programs that were researched are less paper policy and more on the ground procedure. The Committee would like to keep track on the Town's Emergency Plan update to assist with the review to help with the Climate Adaptation Plan.

Chair De Jong will research when the Emergency Plan will be updated next and Member Hutchinson will reach out to the County for an update on the Food Charter.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 Carbon Footprint Calculator presentation to Council

An update was provided by Chair De Jong on outreach to the Communications Department on the Communication presentation to be sent out to the Public on the Town of Cobourg Website.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Anthony Pitts, Vice-Chair

THAT the meeting be adjourned. (3:51 P.M.).

Carried

12. NEXT MEETING

November 3, 2021