



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

MINUTES

**December 2, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Electronic Participation**

Members Present: Minnie de Jong, Chair
Anthony Pitts, Vice-Chair
Councillor Adam Bureau
Marius Marsh
John Vickers
Dale Randall
Warren McCarthy

Staff Present: Krystal Christopher, Deputy Clerk
Judy Smith, Environmental Officer, County of Northumberland

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Minnie de Jong, called the Meeting to Order at 2:01 P.M.

2. APPROVAL/ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Minnie de Jong, introduced Warren McCarthy, Committee Member, and Krystal Christopher, Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

There were no Declarations of Interest Declared by Committee Members.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

6. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

7. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 2021 Meeting Schedule for the Sustainability & Climate Change Advisory Committee

Chair, Minnie de Jong, briefly spoke to the 2021 Meeting Schedule noting the committee will continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month at 2 P.M.

8. REPORTS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Status Update of the March 4, 2020 Meeting Actions

Chair, Minnie de Jong, debriefed the SCCAC on the the agenda items discussed at the March 4, 2020 meeting. Ms. de Jong provided an update and overview of outstanding action items and spoke to completing outstanding actions.

The SCCAC agreed to add a representative from Ganaraska Conservation Authority (GRCA), Pam Lancaster, as a non-voting member in the role of a an advisor. It was noted that the Terms of Reference would have to be modified to reflect this change before a GRCA representative is appointed.

9.2 Status of key Climate Actions Initiatives Council is undertaking:

The SCCAC discussed the progress and status of Climate Initiatives undertaken by Council and spoke to the Climate Action Plan, ICSP and Green Development Standard and the Affordable and Rental Housing CIP. Councillor Bureau noted that Council approved the Climate Change Action plan in principle. Ms. Smith spoke to a community retrofit grant from FCM (Federation of Canadian Municipalities) noting that an application has been submitted.

9.3 Clean Air Alliance Motion to Council re Ontario's plan for gas fired power plants

The SCCAC engaged in a discussion regarding whether a draft motion should be provided to Council to support the request of Clean Air Alliance. The committee discussed the details of the the motion and agreed to provide a motion in support of Clean Air Alliance's delegation at the December 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved by John Vickers

WHEREAS the Ontario Clean Air Alliance is asking the Town of Cobourg to request the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on the greenhouse gas pollution from our gas-fired power plants and to develop and implement a plan to phase-out all of our gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to help Ontario and the Town of Cobourg meet their climate targets; and

WHEREAS the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee has reviewed the material from the Ontario Clean Air Alliance and supports the above request; and

WHEREAS Cobourg acknowledged in declaring a Climate Emergency on December 2, 2019 that we are facing an unprecedented climate crisis requiring unprecedented climate mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the rate necessary to protect human civilization we cannot afford to invest in infrastructure supporting the use of GHG emitting fossil fuel but instead must direct these resources to maximizing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Auditor in her recent 2000 Value for Money Audit: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy Use in Buildings report states the Ontario risks not meeting its GHG emission reduction targets in part because it is not reducing the use of natural gas through better initiatives to increase energy efficiency in buildings, and through developing renewable energy. The auditor general notes that in the Province buildings are the third highest source of GHG emissions after transportation and industry; and

WHEREAS the Auditor in the same report states that “According to research from the University of Oxford, building energy retrofits are one of the most cost-effective measures to deliver both economic and climate goals during the post-COVID recovery. Research by a global management consulting company has found that, following the 2008 recession, three times as many jobs were created by stimulus investments in low-carbon projects, such as building retrofits, compared to fossil-fuel projects (on a per-dollar basis)”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee strongly recommends to Council that they approve and make such request of the Minister Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Minister of Energy, Northern Development

and Mines, David Piccini, MPP, and Ontario Premier Doug Ford as proposed by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance

Carried

9.4 Priority Items for January 2021 SCCAC meeting

SCCAC discussed and identified priority items for the January 4, 2020 meeting. The following priority items were indicated:

- Election of SCCAC Chair and Vice Chair.
- **Climate Action Plan**: Judy agreed to provide a brief presentation of the Climate Action Plan and note actions where the SCCAC could help set targets.
- **Presentations to PRAC and PDAC**: SCCAC agreed to discuss steps to move forward on meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and the Planning and Development Advisory committees (PDAC). Members Dale Randall and John Vickers agreed to review the slide deck to Park and Recreation to see if any update was needed. In addition, members Marius Marsh and Chair Minnie de Jong agreed to review the slide deck for PDAC to see if any changes were required.
- **Update SCCAC Terms of Reference (TOR)**: SCCAC agreed to review the Terms of Reference and provide suggestions for changes by December 23, 2020. One noted suggestion was to allow a representative from Ganaraska Conservation Authority to sit on the committee as an advisor and non-voting member.
- **Identify Grant Funding**: SCCAC agreed to identify grants that the Town of Cobourg may be able to access to fund mitigation and/or adaptation Climate Emergency measures, including those identified in the Climate Action Plan. Member, John Vickers, agreed to compile a list of grants the Town might be able to make use of to implement the Climate Action Plan measures, or other measures the identified by SCCAC.
- **Annual Report and Work Plan**: SCCAC agreed to discuss at the next meeting the 2020 Annual Report and the 2021 Work Plan

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Adam Bureau

THAT the meeting adjourn (3:21 P.M.)

Carried

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, January 6, 2021