

September 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Consideration from:
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEMO TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Colleen Hutt, Deputy Clerk

The Environmental Advisory Committee, at their meeting of September 8, 2021 recommended and approved the following for consideration by Council:

Item 8.1 Niagara Adapts

- 1.1 that the EAC endorse the findings of the Niagara Adapts report and the continuation of feasibility analysis of the established Climate Change goals and actions within.

Item 8.4 Nuisance Lighting By-law

- 1.2 that the Nuisance Lighting By-law be brought forward at the October meeting, request staff be present and in the meantime identify additional and parallel measures related to lighting, for example a policy for lighting on Town property.

The following is attached:

Appendix I - September 8, 2021 Minutes



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 08, 2021
06:00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Norm Arsenault (Chair), Sandra O'Connor, Gary Burroughs, Members: Christine Earl, Paul Jurbala (left 8:00 PM), Kyra Simone, Marco Brunato, William Roberts (left 7:40 PM), Dylan Wiens (left 7:30 PM), Owen Bjorgan

REGRETS:

Hazel Norris, Molly Shara

STAFF:

Rob Andrea	Engineering Technologist
Brett Ruck	Environmental Services Supervisor
Victoria Steele	Executive Assistant & Communications Coordinator

OTHERS:

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Owen Bjorgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Burroughs that the agenda be adopted.

APPROVED.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared at this time.

4. Previous Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of July 7, 2021.

Councillor Gary Burroughs requested the minutes of July, 7, 2021 under section 9.2 be revised to read "Councillor Gary Burroughs advised the hunting of cormorants is now permitted. He noted their presence in the Niagara River was destroying other species such as smelt." – to be approved by Councillor Burroughs.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations

6. Announcements

There were no announcements.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Business

8.1 Niagara Adapts

Rob Andrea presented an update regarding the Niagara Adapts program. He spoke to the draft goals, visions, and prioritized actions.

Councillor Gary Burroughs raised a question about financial implications of the plan. Clarity was provided regarding the survey results and participants.

Discussion took place about creating a Join the Conversation engagement plan and adjusting the engagement survey for public to be less onerous.

The Committee advised a workshop to review definitions and prioritized actions would be preferred.

The option of presenting environmental awards from Committee to the public was highlighted as a priority for the Committee, even though it did not make the top 4.

The Committee discussed the importance of identifying what action items have the biggest impact and approaching the plan from a holistic standpoint to ensure synergy between accomplishing action items.

Moved by Kyra Simone that the EAC endorse the findings of the Niagara Adapts report and the continuation of feasibility analysis of the established Climate Change goals and actions within.

APPROVED.

8.2 Nuisance Lighting By-law

The Committee reviewed the draft Nuisance Lighting By-law and thanked staff for producing it so quickly. Discussion took place about the by-law exempting Town lighting such as street lighting and recreation facilities. Also discussed was ensuring lasers for agricultural use and seasonal lighting would be permitted.

The Committee discussed the need for a policy to accompany the by-law to regulate Town activities and that additional consideration should be given in the by-law to environmental implications (i.e. bird migration, frog habitats, biodiversity, woodlands, etc.)

Moved by Paul Jurbala that the Nuisance Lighting By-law be brought forward at the October meeting, request staff be present and in the meantime identify additional and parallel measures related to lighting, for example a policy for lighting on Town property.

APPROVED.

8.3 St. Davids & Municipal Drain Delegation

Brett Ruck provided a brief update on the municipal drain delegation in St. Davids. He discussed quality of water and sediments. He noted there is a high velocity of stream flow with heavy sediment going to the Virgil Ponds which the Virgil dams help filter and the that velocity of sediment flow was partly the consequence of a lack of vegetation along the creeks. It was also noted that the watershed boundary is not fully mapped and this is needed in order to follow the specifics of the Drainage Act. The Committee asked questions and Brett advised more updates may be available following a meeting between Town Staff and NPCA Staff which will be taking place at the end of September 2021.

Moved by Councillor O'Connor to extend the meeting 8:15 PM.

Approved.

8.4 Town's Natural Asset Management Plan

Councillor O'Connor updated the Committee that the Town is working on a Natural Asset Management Plan and highlighted that Environmental Stewardship was mentioned as a priority in the CAO's 6-month update.

8.5 Virgil Ponds

Brett Ruck advised that the NPCA and Town staff will be meeting to discuss the Virgil Dams. It was suggested William Rapley, the Town's NPCA representative present at an upcoming meeting to discuss potential future plans.

9. New Business

9.1 Regional Transit Plan

Paul Juraba attended a Regional Transit consultation meeting with other Environmental Advisory Committee members from across the Region. The topic was the proposed amalgamation of local transit into a regional approach. Input was provided about increasing emphasis on the environmental advantages of a regional transit approach. Also discussed was the importance to show how environment-friendly approaches can be affordable and/or lower cost.

9.4 United Nations – November 1

William Roberts suggested events or partnership with the United Nations event on November 1st. Committee members can email brainstorming idea directly to Tori via email and this item will be added to the October meeting agenda.

9.5 Street Clean-Up

Owen Bjorgan and Kyra Simone provided information about a garbage clean-up on Saturday September 18th from 9 – 11 AM at Brown's Point Park and Smuggler's Cove.

10. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday October 13, 2021 at 6 PM

ADJOURNMENT: 08:20 PM