



Committee Report

Special Sustainability Advisory Committee Report

Meeting Date: November 3, 2021
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON

Sustainability Advisory Committee Recommendations

NOTE: The following are recommendations from the Sustainability Advisory Committee to be considered for adoption by Council

- [Receive Minutes \(November 3, 2021\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Special Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes dated November 3, 2021, as attached, for information purposes.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Special Sustainability Advisory Committee

Date: November 3, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers - Virtual Meeting
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by:
Kyra Dunlop, Administrative Assistant Committees of Council

Members Present: Councillor Matrosovs, Co-Chair Kim Harris, Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster

Absent Deputy Mayor Potter, Elora Tarlo

Staff Present: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher, Sustainability Coordinator Nicholas Cloet, Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield, Administrative Assistant to Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop. Regrets sent by Director of Operations Shawn Carey.

A. Call to Order

A.1 Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

We would like to begin our meeting by recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada as traditional stewards of the land. The municipality is located within the boundary of Treaty 18 region of 1818 which is the traditional land of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee and Wendat-Wyandot-Wyandotte peoples.

A.2 Committee Member Attendance

Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield confirmed all members were in attendance except Deputy Mayor Potter and Elora Tarlo who sent their regrets.

Town staff present included Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher, Sustainability Coordinator Nicholas Cloet, Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Sarah Merrifield, and Administrative Assistant to Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop. Regrets were sent by Director of Operations Shawn Carey.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Steven Troster

Seconded by: Pamela Spence

THAT the Agenda of November 3, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, Kim Harris, Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster

Absent (2): Deputy Mayor Potter, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 2 absent)

A.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and the Town Procedural By-law 2021-76, Sustainability Advisory Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

B. Public Comment Period

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2021-76 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Sustainability Advisory Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

NOTE: Committee meetings are currently being held virtually to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Executive Assistant.

None

C. Presentations

C.1 Linda Swanston, Manager of Sustainability, Grey County Re: Draft Grey County Climate Change Action Plan

Linda Swanston, Grey County Manager of Climate Change Initiatives, provided a brief background of her experience and thanked the Committee for their time. Linda provided an overview of the Grey County Draft Climate Change Action Plan presentation:

- Climate Change is here, now.
 - "Code Red for Humanity"
- What's happened so far
 - A multi-year process commenced in 2018 for a Climate Change Action Plan.
 - Draft Climate Change Action Plan was endorsed by Grey County Council and to receive feedback from community.
- Snapshot of County Wide Green House Gas Emissions
- Snapshot of County Corporate Green House Gas Emissions
 - County-owned assets only
- What are others doing?
 - Municipalities, Corporations, Communities
- Climate Change Action Plan Community Strategies
 - Buildings, Transportation, Waste, Agriculture, Land Use, Energy, Protection of waterways and shorelines
- Climate Change Action Plan Corporate Strategies
 - Buildings/Lightings, Fleet, Waste, and Municipal Culture
- Leadership in Grey - A support and a catalyst
- Deliver benefits to community
- Centre Indigenous Knowledge
- Strategy #21 - Create an Adoption Plan
- Timelines

Councillor Matrosovs noted that with respect to the chart showing the community Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions that it highlighted the agricultural sector in an unfavorable light. Councillor Matrosovs noted that there had been an increase in the amount of building and development in the region and asked whether the chart showed that a portion of the carbon footprint was coming from other communities. Linda noted that the data focused on emission sources in the County and did not account for overall carbon footprint of imported emissions into the County. Councillor Matrosovs noted that a footnote reference should be added to the slide to provide that clarification to readers.

Committee Member Andrew Siegwart noted that the chart provided a good example of showing the proportions regarding compressed timeframe and

developments for various sectors. Andrew noted that it would be beneficial to know what sources the County used for their draft plan to ensure that any forthcoming municipal plans would be consistent. Linda advised that the data came from a variety of sources, including utility consumption data from providers had been used to calculate the associated GHG emissions; that the County had accessed fuel sale data as well as GPS Google Usage data for vehicle kilometres to evaluate the impact of transportation-based emissions; and that the most recent Agriculture Census data had been used to provide a head count of livestock. Linda noted that the County was supportive of data sharing and was happy to share the data they had compiled in order to find ways to support the work that was already being undertaken by municipalities.

Committee Member Pamela Spence asked if the data collected regarding agriculture was solely based on livestock counts or if it also included the impacts of fertilizer, transportation, and feed. Linda noted that the trucking and building operations of agriculture would have been captured in the other areas of the chart. Linda noted that the emissions from the agricultural sector were estimated on livestock as that was the available data. Linda noted that an approach could be taken wherein the County considered fertilizer in their estimates and that one of the possible recommendations to bring forward in the final County Climate Change Action Plan could be a more robust agricultural baseline. Linda noted that the current guidance to create emission inventory did not provide for a set methodology for sequestration but that going forward the County could look at different ways to capture carbon data. Linda noted that the agricultural community was currently doing a lot to combat climate change.

Co-Chair Kim Harris asked if the Climate Change Action Plan intended to increase targets for carbon reduction to be more in line with the federal plans and noted that the target was fairly low. Co-Chair Harris noted whether any gaps in the targets would be addressed. Linda noted that the target analysis was being revisited to consider what the County would need to achieve a net zero (0) GHG emissions goal. Linda noted the strategies that the County would set out would be dependent on participation from residents and businesses and that the County would need to identify what the number of participants would need to be in order to achieve its goal.

Andrew asked how the County was intending to engage private sectors. Linda noted that a key role for the County was to make outreach and communication a focus at the Grey County and municipal levels as well as other levels of government. Andrew noted that it would set a leadership role that Grey County was taking the initiative.

Pamela asked how the draft plan strategy compared between Grey County and Simcoe County, and how Grey County would work with neighboring counties. Linda noted that she would follow-up with the Committee with more

information on that and noted that given that Simcoe and Grey County shared a border it was an important consideration.

Committee Member Steven Troster asked what Grey County's tactics would be to bring the draft plan to the rural community. Linda noted that the draft plan included several engagement strategies and that the County had received feedback that the focus should be on building relationships with existing community hubs to provide information about climate issues. Steven asked if it would be more effective if municipalities signed onto the County's draft plan or if municipalities could expect to have actions downloaded to them with funding to implement the plan in their jurisdiction, and what the legal framework of that process would be. Linda noted that the County preferred a collaborative approach and would be looking for municipalities to endorse the draft plan in principle. Linda noted that the County was investigating where the County and municipalities had authority to implement strategies.

Pamela clarified that the draft goals where the carbon reduction is set to 40% in 2015 should be reviewed to be tied closer to the Federal emission reduction goals as they may not be sufficient to meet the climate challenges ahead. Linda confirmed that the emission reduction goals for the County are being reviewed.

Councillor Matrosovs thanked Linda for meeting with the Committee and noted that the Committee was interested to see the progress made with the draft Climate Change Action Plan.

C.2 John Lewis, President, and Helen Loghrin, Planner, Intelligent Futures Inc. Re: The Blue Mountains Future Story: Draft Vision and Goals

Intelligent Futures Consultant John Lewis provided an overview of the Draft Vision and Goals and thanked the community for their input and feedback. John noted that a new item that had been incorporated into Phase 2 was to think about organizing the plan around 'Bold Actions' to provide an easier rallying cry for different streams of action and avoid unintentional silos in goal achievement. John noted that the Committee Summit identified the need for a governance piece and a regional lens to be included as they were common themes.

Co-Chair Harris noted that the goals identified should be less soft in their time-lines and whether the goal could be set as reaching net zero (0) GHG emissions. Co-Chair Harris noted that the definition of 'natural systems' was unclear. John noted that the consultants had attempted to frame goals in their ambitious end-state. John noted that natural systems involved considering topography, watershed health, renewable energy. Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher noted that the wording of natural systems was an alternative phrase to natural environment to better reflect and take a broader view of the entire regional environment.

Committee members provided the following comments regarding the Vision and Goals:

- Using the word regenerative rather than restorative
- Honoring of First Nations piece to be moved from Arts & Culture to a separate goal category to better recognize their stewardship of the land and to avoid tokenism.
- Natural Environment Goals should be the top priority
- Additional comment regarding taking a regional approach and partnerships should be incorporated into the Goals
- Avoid siloism of the Goals - they should speak to and support one another.
- Focus should be given on Bold Actions and less on Vision and Goals.
- The document summarized a 50 year vision and it would be important to articulate immediate next steps.
- The document should articulate the split between the built and natural environment regarding land use

John thanked the members for their feedback.

Andrew noted that it would be important to be cautious that while taking a regional approach the Town continue taking responsibility for its own outcomes and set targets for the community at a local level. Andrew asked what the immediate next steps would be after the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan was implemented and whether the consultants were considering the Grey County framework being used in their development of the Climate Change Action Plan. John noted that Phase 3 would be centred around bold actions which would take place in the next 5-10 years. John noted that the first step would be to prioritize and go through the goals to determine what most impactful actions could be implemented first and to provide clarity of what the municipality could implement on its own, and what other stakeholders or levels of government could implement. Consultant Helen Loghrin noted that Phase 3 of the plan would outline each action and identify what the Town and stakeholders would need to do to implement and achieve each action. Andrew asked if the consultants would be going back out to the community for feedback, which John confirmed they would do.

Committee Members asked what the timeline for the release of the document would be. Jeff noted that staff would be looking for the Committee to endorse the draft Future Story Vision & Goals at their next meeting before bringing it forward to Committee of the Whole for Council consideration. Jeff noted that Phase 3 was expected to begin in early 2022.

Andrew asked if the Committee could see a summary of the Bold Actions, and Helen confirmed that a draft could be brought to the Committee for their review. Helen noted that the feedback from the community regarding Bold Actions had not been fully analyzed by the consultants yet.

Andrew asked if there were any thoughts on what Grey County had included in their Draft Climate Change Action Plan and if the Town envisioned a similar exercise. Jeff noted that the Town had undertaken a similar exercise in 2005 and that the Town had looked at a strategic plan on both a corporate and community level. Jeff noted that the County had offered to provide assistance to the Town through their Climate Change Action Plan and that setting targets would be the next step. Jeff noted that with Council support the Town could create a local Climate Action Plan that was Town-centric.

Councillor Matrosovs thanked the consultants for their presentation.

D. Notice of Meeting Dates

November 10, 2021

Town Hall, Council Chambers (virtual)

E. Adjournment

Moved by: Pamela Spence

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 2:26 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (5): Councillor Matrosovs, Kim Harris, Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster

Absent (2): Deputy Mayor, and Elora Tarlo

The motion is Carried (5 to 0)