



Committee Report

Sustainability Advisory Committee Report

Meeting Date: February 9, 2022
Meeting Time: 9:00 a.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 \(February 9, 2022\)](#)

Recommended (Move, second)

THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains receives Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes dated February 9, 2022, as attached, for information purposes.

[B.3.1 CSOPS.22.001 Municipal Response to the Climate Emergency Declaration Update - Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher](#)

THAT Council of Town of The Blue Mountains receives the following recommendation from the February 9, 2022 Sustainability Advisory Committee:

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee endorses Staff Report CSOPS.22.001 Municipal Response to the Climate Emergency Declaration in response to the Corporate Strategic Plan, CARRIED.



Minutes

The Blue Mountains, Sustainability Advisory Committee

Date: February 9, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.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, Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Stephen Granger

Staff Present: Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher and Sustainability Coordinator Nicholas Cloet

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

Councillor Matrosovs called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Acting Executive Assistant to Committees of Council Kyra Dunlop confirmed all members were present. Member Steven Troster joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Town staff present were Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher and Sustainability Coordinator Nicholas Cloet.

A.2.1 New Member Welcome

Note: Council passed the following resolution at the January 17, 2022 meeting:

THAT Stephen Granger is hereby appointed to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for the balance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

Councillor Matrosovs welcomed new member Stephen Granger to the Committee.

Stephen noted that he had moved from Aurora where he had been active on several Town Committees over the years. Stephen noted that the Town of The Blue Mountains had a lot to offer and that the Sustainability Advisory Committee resonated with him.

A.3 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart

Seconded by: Steven Troster

THAT the Agenda of February 9, 2022 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)

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

A.5 Previous Minutes

Moved by: Kim Harris

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Minutes of December 14, 2021 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)

B. Staff Reports and Deputations

B.1 Deputations, if any

None

B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

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

B.3 Staff reports, if any

B.3.1 CSOPS.22.001 Municipal Response to the Climate Emergency Declaration Update - Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher

Note: This Staff Report was previously under report number CSOPS.21.082

Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher advised that the Staff Report CSOPS.22.001 was a direct response to the Climate Emergency Declaration made by the Town in 2019 and the Corporate Strategic Plan, which required staff to formulate a response for Council consideration. Jeff noted that the recommendations in the report were focused on responding to areas of the Climate Emergency Declaration which were directly within Town purview and which staff felt could be actioned on. Jeff noted that the report was a corporate response and would have less impact on the broader community.

Co-Chair Kim Harris asked if staff could provide an example of the type of actions they expected to take. Jeff advised that the report included a number of actions that staff hoped to take, including:

- Develop a Net Zero Carbon municipal building policy;
- Create a policy that requires waste management plans for Town facilities and municipal building deconstruction;

- Create a long-term plan to transition the Town's fleet of vehicles into electric vehicles and plan for charging infrastructure to charge fleet vehicles at Town facilities; and
- Develop a tree and naturalization policy for municipally-owned lands and investigate methods of assessing carbon sequestration.

Jeff noted that another action would include measuring and monitoring the Green House Gas Emissions (GHG's) in Town.

The Committee discussed potential additions of action items that could be included or revised in the report, including the requirement that sustainability be a key criteria of review in Town bids; a timeline be set for policy development; and that sustainability be a component through which all Town projects be considered by staff. Jeff advised that the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan will provide opportunity for the recommendations that came forward to be actioned over the next 5 years.

Stephen Granger asked if planning staff had been involved in the preparation of the report. Jeff noted that planning staff had not reviewed the report as part of the review process, and that the focus of the report was on corporate actions and business. Jeff noted that planning staff had asked bidders for the Official Plan project how they intended to address other Town plans including the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. Jeff noted he also had an opportunity to review developments that came through Operations staff through a sustainability lens. Jeff noted that the Town did not have a lot of policy around sustainability and that the policy developed by staff would be incorporated into future bid processes.

Andrew Siegwart noted that the report stated that sustainability initiatives would be funded through the 2022 budget, and noted that it was important that the budget was allocated for implementation of the strategy once it was completed rather than being used for the assessment of smaller steps. Andrew noted that the strategy and prioritization of work had not been completed, and that the Committee was prioritizing items before the strategy had been finalized. Andrew noted that the Committee had received a presentation from Grey County on their Climate Action Plan which included policy for both municipalities as well as the community.

Steven Troster asked if the Town had budgeted for the purchase of electric vehicles through the 2022 budget. Jeff noted that a policy would allow the Town to transition to more electric vehicles. Councillor Matrosovs noted that the report was completed in consultation with Phil Pesek, Manager of Facilities and Fleet, and asked if staff had discussed visioning steps regarding purchasing of electric vehicles. Councillor

Matrosovs noted that electric vehicles were not only related to sustainability but also asset management. Jeff noted that the report did not identify specific steps to purchase electric vehicles and that the report was intended for Council to advise if staff were on the right track in responding to the Climate Emergency Declaration. Steven asked why staff had not considered a Net Zero GHG Emissions policy for all buildings in Town, and noted that the goals should be expanded to include private properties.

Pamela Spence noted that the policies in the report should be part of the Bold Actions through the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP). Sustainability Coordinator Nicholas Cloet noted that the feedback provided by the Committee at a previous meeting regarding the staff report had been incorporated into the ICSP through the Bold Actions development.

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart
Seconded by: Pamela Spence

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee endorses Staff Report CSOPS.22.001 Municipal Response to the Climate Emergency Declaration in response to the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)

Matters for Discussion

C.1 Integrated Community Sustainability Plan Phase 3 Update - Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher

Note: The following resolution passed at the December 13, 2021 Council meeting. This item was also discussed at the December 14, 2021 Sustainability Committee meeting.

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSOPS.21.087, entitled “Community Sustainability Plan Phase 2 Vision and Goals”;
AND THAT Council endorse in principal, the proposed Vision and Goals for the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan as reviewed at the November 30, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting;
AND THAT Council request that the Sustainability Advisory Committee focus on the highest priority initiatives that deliver on the Vision and Goals for Council consideration through a report back to a future Committee of the Whole meeting within Phase 3;
AND THAT Council direct that the staff report will include clear fiscal resources associated with each priority.

Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher noted that the timeline for completion of the ICSP had been circulated and that staff were in the process of reviewing materials which would be circulated for the Special Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting on February 18, 2022. Jeff noted that the purpose of the Special Committee Meeting would be for discussion of the Bold Actions, which would be approximately one paragraph in length, with examples of key steps to support the Bold Actions. Jeff noted that the key steps were subject to further discussion and could change.

Jeff noted that staff were not going back out to the public to receive more Bold Action or work areas as they felt significant input and engagement had provided them a good sense of the Bold Actions to include for the ICSP. Jeff noted that the public would be asked for their participation in action areas, and that outreach would take place to promote the survey. Jeff noted staff were also investigating doing a podcast with the consultant once Bold Actions were developed. Jeff noted that the intention was to have the ICSP approved by Council before they entered a Lamé Duck period in July 2022.

Councillor Matrosovs noted that the ICSP Sub-Committee had met with staff to discuss the timelines and recommendations. The Committee discussed when the Agenda for the Special Committee Meeting would be released and how members of the public and Committee Members could submit comments to staff and the Committee for consideration.

Andrew Siegwart noted that he hoped to see data points to support the Bold Actions, and that evaluative criteria should assist in guiding the Committee in why a particular Bold Action should be supported and prioritized.

Steven Troster asked if there would be any budget that would be attributed to the Bold Actions, and that ranges of funding should be available for each Bold Action for the public to consider. Jeff noted that they were not at that stage yet of budgeting for specific action items but that the next step would be to identify a budget for each Bold Action. Councillor Matrosovs noted that the ICSP needed to address sustainability for the environment, social and cultural aspect, and finances.

C.2 Environmental Grants Incentives - Co-Chair Kim Harris

[Link to City of Toronto Home Energy Loan Program](#)

Note: This item deferred to the next Committee meeting.

C.3 Collingwood Today Article Re: Invasive Species, Climate Change Behind Bird and Fish Die-offs - Committee Member Pamela Spence

[Link to the Collingwood Today Article](#)

Pamela Spence provided an overview of the article.

C.4 Collingwood News Article Re Tree Memorial for Deputy Mayor Potter - Pamela Spence

[Link to Collingwood Today Article](#)

Pamela Spence noted that the Committee had discussed planting trees in honour of Deputy Mayor Potter and that the article provided details on that discussion.

Councillor Matrosovs noted that Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons had been in contact with Deputy Mayor Potter's widow who had suggested a bench for people to sit under the trees and contemplate.

Steven Troster left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

C.5 Tracking List Update, as available - Town Staff

- Official Plan Update, if available
 - Staff are in the process of reviewing bids.
- Harbour Litter Trap
- Knowledge Series
 - Manager of Sustainability and Solid Waste Jeff Fletcher noted that staff would continue to send free and available webinars of interest to Committee members.
- Styrofoam Pilot Project
 - The Styrofoam Pilot Project was a more permanent fixture at the landfill.
- Policy for Development Charges - Attainable Housing
- 15-17 Arthur Street Parking Lot Design Considerations
 - Report would be considered at the February 14, 2022 Council meeting regarding addressing the increased costs associated with the project and a review of options to address the costs.
- Library for Committee resources
- Green Development Standards Update, once available
- Initiatives to address Climate Emergency Declaration
- Progress on Town's ban on plastics in Town facilities
- Progress on Municipal Water Fountain installations in Town facilities

Moved by: Pamela Spence

Seconded by: Andrew Siegwart

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee wishes to celebrate the achievement of the Styrofoam Pilot Project becoming permanent, following presentations by the Climate Action Now Network and decisions of Council;

AND THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee wishes to thank the Operations Department and Council for implementing the initiative.

Yay (5): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

Absent (1): Steven Troster

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 1 absent)

D. Correspondence

D.1 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights dated November 2021

NOTE: The following resolution passed at the December 13, 2021 Council meeting:

THAT Council receive the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights dated November 2021 and refers the Meeting Highlights to the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Committee for information as it related to Living Snow Fences.

Councillor Matrosovs noted that the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting had had a discussion about living snow fence programs and the challenges and impacts in agricultural lands.

Moved by: Pamela Spence

Seconded by: Kim Harris

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receives Item D.1. for information.

Yay (5): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

Absent (1): Steven Troster

The motion is Carried (5 to 0, 1 absent)

D.2 Sally Leppard, Climate Action Now Network Re: Climate Emergency Initiatives

Co-Chair Kim Harris noted her support for the letter which addressed the Climate Action Now Network concern that sustainability should be a lens used for all future Town projects.

Steven Troster joined the meeting at 10:49 am.

Moved by: Pamela Spence

Seconded by: Stephen Granger

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee receives Item D.2. for information and that staff take this correspondence into consideration when finalizing Staff Report CSOPS.22.001.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Andrea Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)

D.3 Alex Maxwell Re Climate Change

Note: Council passed the following resolution at their January 17, 2022 Council meeting:

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the January 2, 2022 correspondence from Alex Maxwell regarding climate change, and carbon offset credit proposals as reported by the CBC;

AND THAT Council refers the correspondence to the Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Official Plan Update Steering Committee for consideration

Moved by: Steven Troster

Seconded by: Pamela Spence

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee defers Item D.3 and D.4 to the next regular Committee meeting.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Andrea Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)

D.4 Joint Committee Minutes dated January 13, 2022

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Additions to Agenda

E.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting

- Media Release re Long Term Care Beds - Committee Member Stephen Granger
- Environmental Grants Incentives - Co-Chair Kim Harris
- Tree Memorial and Bench for Deputy Mayor Potter - Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons
- Alex Maxwell Re Climate Change (correspondence)
- Joint Committee Minutes dated January 13, 2022 (correspondence)

F. Notice of Meeting Dates

February 18, 2022, Special Committee Meeting
Town Hall, Council Chambers (Virtual)

and

March 9, 2022
Town Hall, Council Chambers (Virtual)

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Steven Troster
Seconded by: Stephen Granger

THAT the Sustainability Advisory Committee does now adjourn at 10:59 a.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Yay (6): Andrew Siegwart, Pamela Spence, Steven Troster, Kim Harris, Councillor Matrosovs, and Stephen Granger

The motion is Carried (6 to 0)