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1. Call to Order

1.1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016 (S. Moore) [6:00 – 6:10 p.m.]

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

3. Approval of Minutes

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4. Presentation/Discussion Items

4.1 Volunteer Recognition Awards Selection Panel [6:10 – 6:25 p.m.]

Laura Tegelberg, Community Recreation Coordinator

4.2 Emerald Ash Borer Management Update [6:25 – 6:45 p.m.]

Tim Field, Manager – Environmental Services

4.3 Overview of E-Vehicle Grant Submission (J. Schofield) [6:45 – 7:00 p.m.]

4.4 2016 Environmental Events (J. Schofield) [7:00 – 7:15 p.m.]

4.5 2016 Provincial EAC Symposium (J. Schofield) [7:15 – 7:35 p.m.]

5. Correspondence

6. Update from Council

7. Standing Items

7.1 Work PlanPage 7

7.2 Durham Environmental Advisory Committee Update (K. Sellers)

8. New Business

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: *Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., River Plate Room, Town Hall*



DRAFT MINUTES
Environmental Advisory Committee
December 3, 2015
River Plate Room, Town Hall

Alternative formats available upon request by contacting:
sarah.moore@ajax.ca or 905-619-2529 ext. 3347

Committee Members:	Councillor Joanne Dies Neil Burnett, Chair Kayla Ginter Jeff Hammond Jeff Hill David Hogg Lesia Lapointe Kim Sellers Scott Slack Valerie Silveira
Staff:	Jade Schofield, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Sarah Moore, Committee Coordinator
Guests:	Sarah Fleischhauer, Interim Durham Stewardship Coordinator
Regrets:	Melissa Beynon

1. Call to Order

Chair Burnett called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved By: V. Silveira
Seconded By: J. Hill

That the November 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation/Discussion

4.1 Anti-Litter Strategy

J. Schofield reference the anti-litter strategy report circulated separately from the agenda package. She discuss the results of the Town's facility waste audits and the progress of the

strategy to date. Initiatives such as the installation of green bins in Town facilities, hazardous waste collection, and a “Quite the Print” initiative were reviewed. J. Schofield noted that by streamlining the recycling receptacles at town facilities waste diversion was and can continue to be improved. She discussed statistics relative to the amount of waste produced per facility each year, with the Ajax Community Centre identified as the leader with 53.2 tonnes. She noted that the diversion rate trends from 2010 – 2015 have increased, with Town Hall only one percentage point away from achieve “zero-waste” status, at 82%.

Members inquired whether vermicomposting is present in any of the Town facilities, and the type of waste not being diverted. J. Schofield noted that the waste going to landfill is primarily paper, plastics, glass and organics, with 2/3 eligible for diversion. Additional questions related the location of the sorting facility (Waterloo) and the recycling of plastic shopping bags.

Actions to move the strategy forward will include evaluation and relocation of waste containers, removal of all standalone garbage containers, increased education and awareness (signage, staff information brochure, etc.) and increased opportunities to divert specialized waste materials.

J. Schofield noted that over 500 garbage receptacles are present in parks, along the trails and at the Harwood Plaza. Twelve recycling stations, most along the waterfront and major parks, are also present. In 2014, 200 tonnes of waste was collected from external parks and public spaces. J. Schofield identified several key issues contributing to the waste including littering, utilization of the waste receptacles for household waste, receptacle access in the winter and pet waste disposal. Programs supporting the decrease in waste in our parks and public spaces include inventory of all of the Town’s external waste receptacles and the sale of garbage bag tags, blue and green bins at the community centres and Town Hall. Service barriers to waste collection and diversion were noted to include transit stations, school zones, and super mailboxes. J. Schofield reviewed the Anti-Litter Action Plan, comprised of 5 short to medium-term goals:

1. Improve waste infrastructure
2. Increase awareness around littering
3. Encourage community pride and local involvement
4. Continue to enforce
5. Keep spaces clean

Members discussed the accessibility of the three-stream waste receptacles, noting the height, colours and fonts could create potential barriers. Questions relative to the Town’s waste management contract and the residential waste collected by the Region were posed.

4.2 Green Event Policy

J. Schofield reviewed the proposed Green Events Policy report, circulated separately from the agenda package. She noted that the proposed policy speaks to a “whole systems” approach to greening events, not just waste generation. She discussed the benefits to a green events policy, noting that it can lead to decreased waster production, increased diversion, promotion of the Town’s Tap into It! program, and reduce reliance on motorized vehicle transportation. The policy will inspire behavioural change and promote the Town and community event leaders as sustainability ambassadors.

She noted that the policy document is intentionally written at a high level and provides guidelines relative to indoor meetings and events, small outdoor events (less than 500 people), and large outdoor events (more than 500 people). The implementation guide includes waste sorting rules, acceptable vendor materials, a “green event” debrief sheet and green policy vendor commitment to be signed.

The Town of Ajax was noted to supply material such as receptacles, signage and bike corrals to assist with “greening” events. The guide also provides recommended considerations to be made prior to, during, and after the event takes place. When the policy is approved it will require the awareness and engagement of staff as well as the public to be impactful.

Members expressed appreciation for the proposed policy. Questions were raised relative to the bottled water ban and whether it applies to schools. Members encouraged sharing information with environmental teams at schools to help spread awareness.

4.3 Adopt-a-Road Safety Video

D. Hogg discussed his interest in inviting other Advisory Committees to take part in the EAC clean-up and hopefully inspire them to take on an adoption of their own. Members discussed potential dates for their annual clean-up.

Moved By: D. Hogg
Seconded By: J. Hammond

That the Committee coordinate an annual clean-up of their adopted road on the third Saturday of April, July and October, in 2016 and 2017.

CARRIED

D. Hogg agreed to sign off on the legal paperwork regarding the Committee’s road adoption. All Members present participated in a mandatory screening of the Adopt-a-Park/Road Safety video.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Update from Council

Councillor Dies informed the Committee that the Operating Budget will be coming to Council for approval and that there will be a 2.75% increase to the Town of Ajax portion of property taxes. She noted that staff have been directed to look at potential decrease in the tax rate for 2016.

7. Standing Items

7.1 Work Plan

The Committee's Adopt-a Park/Road initiative was requested to be added to the Work Plan.

7.2 Durham Environmental Advisory Committee Update

None.

7.4 Durham York Energy Centre Update

The Durham York Energy Centre has completed all component and system commissioning for the energy-from-waste plant. Acceptance testing of the Energy-From-Waste (EFW) facility, as required by MOECC, ran over 37 days with only 1 hour of downtime. Odour and acoustic audits were also undertaken. The Source Test Reports have been submitted to the MOECC and the Regions for review, under the stipulations of the Air Emissions Monitoring Plan. Chair Burnett noted that his term of appointment on the Durham York Energy Centre committee is concluding and could not speak to the status of future updates.

8. New Business

S. Moore reminded the Committee to submit their brief biographies for inclusion on the Town's website. She also noted that at the first Meeting in the New Year, the Committee will be electing its Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

J. Schofield informed the Committee that it was S. Fleischhauer's last meeting with the Committee, as she has accepted a position with the Maitland Conservation Authority, working with rural landowners. On behalf of the Committee, J. Schofield thanked her for her work with the Committee, partnership and engagement in coordinating community events and restoration projects.

K. Sellers requested that staff and the Committee look into rescheduling the September 2016 Meeting date, as it conflicts with the Durham Region Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting.

9. Adjournment

Moved By: K. Sellers
Seconded By: D. Hogg

That the December 3, 2015 Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee be adjourned.
(7:45 p.m.)

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2014-2018 WORK PLAN

PROJECT ITEM		OBJECTIVES & SUMMARY	LEAD	TIMELINE	STATUS / NOTES
1	Ajax Waterfront Management & Shoreline Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail improvements Carruthers Marsh rehabilitation Pickering Beach Bioswales Algae growth Water quality testing Interpretive signage 	Catherine Bridgeman, Kevin Tryon, Tim Field	Annual: Spring	
2	Environmental Education & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canada Water Week Earth Hour Green Living Days Pollinator workshops Ajax in Bloom Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup Community cleanups Bring Back the Salmon event 	Jade Schofield, Vanessa Lorrain, TRCA	Annual: Spring	
3	Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stormwater pond rehabilitation projects Low impact development projects (rain gardens, bioswales) 	Kevin Tryon. Catherine Bridgeman	Annual	
4	Planning & Development Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed development update Active transportation update Engineering update 	Planning & Development	Twice Annually	
5	Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Regional Update- residential waste? (tbd)</i> Annual facility waste audits Green event policy comments Public space litter control education campaign, 	Jade Schofield	Fall 2015	

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2014-2018 WORK PLAN

6	Urban Forest Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAB & Ice Storm Damage update LEAF program Educational program update Urban Forest Management Plan consultation 	Tim Field, Craig Blencowe, Jade Schofield	Annual: Spring	
7	Capital Projects- Operations Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Catherine Bridgeman	Annual/ as needed update	
8	Integrated Community Sustainability Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2015 Action Items 2016 workplan consultation 	Jade Schofield	Annual: Fall	
9	Energy Conservation Demand Management Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and comments on plan Green fleet initiative LED conversion strategy 	Jade Schofield, Ray Ford, Chris Addley, Rick Chalmers	Spring 2015 & update annually	
10	Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Region of Durham's Climate Adaptation Strategy 	Brian Kelly, Region of Durham	Spring/ Fall 2015.	