



**A meeting of the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee
was held on the above date at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Annex, 82 Erie Street, Stratford ON – Avon Meeting Room**

Present: Emily Chandler – Chair Presiding, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Dave Hanly, Marianne Hawley, Craig Merkley, Vanni Azzano, Sammie Orr, Anna Stratton, Mike Jorna, Matthew Orchard, Dave Mabee, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

Staff Present: *Taylor Crinklaw – Project Engineer, Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Anne Carbert, Lorraine Kuepfer, *Bill James-Abra, Natasha McCormick

MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Emily Chandler called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES – March 14, 2019

Motion by Mike Jorna, seconded by Matthew Orchard that the minutes dated March 14, 2019 are adopted as printed. Carried.

4.0 DELEGATES: Anne Carbert & Bill James-Abra – Climate Change Blog

Anne Carbert discussed a new initiative she is developing aimed at climate action mobilization locally. Helping people understand how they can impact climate change locally. They are launching a blog this spring, aiming for Earth Day. Working at a municipal level to engage citizens in climate change action. Bill James-Abra explained that Canada is warming twice as fast as the global rate. The idea of the blog is to give people some direction on how they can make a difference. The blog project will focus on projects already completed or near completion that decrease energy use or lower the carbon footprint. They will highlight and profile local individuals and groups making a difference. Some planned profiles are the LED street lights, local youth activists and climate change education. The hope is to have on blog per week for the summer and then stretch out the frequency. They are recruiting volunteer writers.

Phase two will start in the fall; gathering groups of people together for informal discussions on climate change. To make community connections and to work together moving forward. Phase three is a planned event in the spring of 2020. Organizers hope to hold a town hall discussion with an eco-info fair.

Ms. Carbert has asked committee members to share the blog information once it launches and looks forward to hearing from the E&E Committee with blog and topic ideas.

Mike Jorna noted that this fits well with the E&E recommendation to Council last month that they try to reduce Stratford's carbon footprint and increase greening in the community.

Dave Mabee suggested organizers partner with local businesses to help spread the blog information with their contacts.

Dave Hanly inquired if there was any feedback from other cities who are already doing the initiative? Mr. James-Abra has not received any updates from Singapore of the various cities in the United States.

Councillor Henderson noted that many of the E&E initiatives would fit well with this idea.

*Bill James-Abra no longer present (4:20 p.m.)

5.0 UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS

Waste & Water

Emily Chandler updated the committee that the cosmetic repurposing project is ready to go. There will be four depots set up in Stratford to collect mascara wands. They will start collecting during Trashion Week and run for six weeks. Everything collected will be sent to a recycling facility in St. Catherines.

Emily Chandler has been working with the City Centre Committee to encourage local restaurants and businesses to reduce the use of plastic straws.

Kate Simpson reported that she received a stack of hand-written letters from a school in Kinkora encouraging the Mayor of Stratford to change the by-law to ban plastic straws. Ms. Simpson has discussed the letters and the request with Mayor Mathieson and he encouraged her to share the information with the E&E Committee. E&E has already put forth the recommendation for Council to consider banning single-use plastics in Stratford. Members encouraged Ms. Simpson to share the letters with the community. She will contact Mike Beitz to discuss sharing this great example of youth activism.

Vanni Azzano suggested that all of the bans, such as single-use plastics and plastic straws need to be included in a waste reduction strategy. Councillor Burbach noted that the City of Vancouver has a great example of a single-use plastic reduction plan. She will forward the link to members.

Kate Simpson updated the committee that there may be changes coming in the recycling program in Stratford. There will be some items not accepted any more, which will require an educational program to inform residents. The fees will also rise drastically, so it will be imperative that the residents are aware of what can and cannot be recycled. Ms. Simpson also received two tenders for the proposed composting program. They have put forth a recommendation to Council and it will be up to them to decide to move forward with a two-year composting program.

*Taylor Crinklaw no longer present (4:45 p.m.)

Kate Simpson has a new poster with the updated recycling information to display at the E&E booth at the upcoming Home Show.

Mike Jorna stated that many residents may be upset that the recycling program seems to be retrogressing. They may choose to continue putting items not accepted into their blue boxes. Mr. Jorna questioned if periodic drop-offs could be held at the landfill to accept some of the eliminated items such as cartons, small yogurt/pudding containers. Ms. Simpson agreed with the idea of a depot, however the logistics of sorting, collecting and ultimately finding an end-market to ship the item to create a roadblock. Anna Stratton explained that the City of Toronto ran community collection days twice per year. They set up bins/depots around the city.

Ms. Simpson stated that the most important aspect will be to change people's shopping habits and attitudes. A key part will be educational programs in the schools.

Dave Mabee inquired if bringing back glass containers is an option. Ms. Simpson stated that the issue with glass is the weight; which drives the shipping cost up.

Ms. Simpson noted that the recycling program is scheduled for discussion at the April 8, 2019 Council meeting.

Ecological

Councillor Henderson reported that plans for the Home Show are set. She will recirculate the sign-up sheet to everyone.

Craig Merkley reported that the ecological working group is meeting with the CAO to discuss the city's carbon footprint and increasing greening. Some statistics gathered between 2000-2010 indicate Stratford has lost 6 hectares of woodland. By comparison,

London, Ontario has lost 348 hectares in that same time period. They will also discuss the climate action position for the city.

Dave Hanly suggested a dialogue with the surrounding municipalities as to how we can overall increase the coverage of greening within the County.

Mr. Merkley explained that the City of London runs "tree power" programs, which may be an idea for Stratford.

The UTRCA will be doing a planting around Shakespeare Pond on April 30, 2019.

Mr. Merkley suggested the E&E Committee could take a field trip and visit some of the sites of recent tree plantings.

They are continuing to push hard with the invasive species program to keep on top of it. The UTRCA is looking at possibly partnering with local gardening clubs to stop invasive species.

UTRCA are in talks with the City's Engineering Department regarding the John Street weir. They are discussing the possibility of removing the weir. Removing it would improve the aquatic health.

Mr. Merkley reported they have tentatively scheduled a media day on May 2, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.. They will contact Mike Beitz to cover the event.

Councillor Henderson reported they have asked for an e-coli count update for the Avon River.

Vanni Azzano reported that the beavers have destroyed trees and shrubs at Devon Park. They are planning a tree planting of 150 trees to replace the damaged ones. A class from St. Michael's School will be assisting with the planting on April 24, 2019.

Motion by Vanni Azzano, seconded by Dave Hanly that the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends \$750.00 to support the tree planting project at Devon Park on April 24, 2019. Carried.

*Matthew Orchard no longer present (5:00 p.m.)

Energy

No new updates.

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

(a) Request to Update the Roundtable for the Environment – Update

Emily Chandler updated the committee that last month’s recommendation from the E&E committee is with staff and will go to the ITS Sub-committee for review.

Ms. Chandler also noted that the Bee City representative request to be added to E&E is going to Committee for consideration on April 8, 2019.

The dog waste collection report is going to the ITS Sub-committee on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

(b) Trashion Week Film Event – April 18, 2019

Anna Stratton noted they are still in need of a couple of volunteers the evening of the film event. Please let her know if you are available to help out.

7.0 UPCOMING EVENTS

Home Show	(April 12-14, 2019)
Trashion Week Film	(April 18, 2019)
Devon Park Tree Planting	(April 24, 2019)
Earth Day Program	(April 26, 2019)
Thames River Clean-up	(April 27, 2019)
Shakespeare Pond Planting	(April 30, 2019)
London Water Festival VIP Tour	(May 15, 2019)
Stratford Water Day	(April 22, 2020)
Perth Children’s Water Festival	(May 26-28, 2020)

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

(a) Green Program Proposal – Vanni Azzano

Vanni Azzano updated the committee on the Green Program the grade 7 and 8’s at St. Aloysius School are participating in. Stratford is a great model for this type of program and the organizers are looking to add more community partners to assist with the program moving forward. The Grade 8’s are currently working on their proposals; which they will eventually present to the E&E Committee. Mr. Azzano noted that they have applied for grant funding to keep the program going. They would like to offer the program to two more schools if funding allows. The cost is approximately \$5,000.00 per school for two classes to participate.

Motion by Dave Mabee, seconded by Mike Jorna that the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee spends \$1,000.00 to support the future of the Green Program at Stratford Schools. Carried.

9.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – May 9, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.– City Hall Annex – Avon Room

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Dave Hanly that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Time: 5:20 p.m.