



**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, Mike Jorna, Matthew Orchard, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

**Staff Present:** Kate Simpson – Waste Reduction Coordinator, \*Quin Malott – Parks & Forestry Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Sharon Poelstra

**Absent:** Anna Stratton, Dave Mabee, Taylor Crinklaw – Project Engineer

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## **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 – May 9, 2019**

**Motion by Marianne Hawley, seconded by Dave Hanly that the minutes dated May 9, 2019 are adopted as printed. Carried.**

### **4.0 DELEGATE: Quin Malott, Parks & Forestry Manager – Greening Stratford**

Quin Malott explained to the committee that his annual budget for planting trees in the city is \$75,000.00, not including what they receive from subdivision funds (one tree per lot). This amount has not changed greatly and Mr. Malott feels this is an adequate annual budget which allows them to plant approximately 500 trees per year. In conjunction with UTRCA, they also plant approximately 1,500 saplings. City staff will try to plant wherever they can; there are not a lot of areas that have not been infilled. They are currently working on infilling around swim ponds on Romeo Street. The “actual” cost for staff to plant a tree is \$300/tree with all the associated costs involved. Memorial trees are

\$300.00 to purchase, which just covers the costs associated. Memorial trees are not plaqued.

Because Stratford is an urban forest, it requires a lot of effort to document and maintain each tree. Inside the arterial roads, Stratford has a 6-10% tree coverage. Because the city owns outside those arterial roads, there are percentages of farm land, which lowers the percentage of tree coverage.

The City of Stratford has a plan for three years in advance for tree plantings and removals. Staff has trees on their radar that are in decline due to age or disease and they plan ahead of time. They pre-plan around subdivision plans and know when those trees are also being put in. Mr. Malott stated that between 2010-2014, staff removed 2800 ash trees along streets. During that time frame, staff planted a 1:1 ratio of trees removed and planted. The normal planting ratio is 7:1, including all the saplings being planted. Staff anticipated the ash borer and there was a contingency plan in place for the tree removals leading up to it.

Any tree planting projects that the E&E Committee partners on is over and above the annual Community Services tree budget.

Mike Jorna stated that there is a great need to plant as many trees as possible in the city and thanked Quin Malott and his staff for doing a terrific job in their efforts. He inquired if there are more possibilities to do additional plantings of trees along soccer fields. Mr. Malott noted that they have received some push back from citizens in the past for trying to naturalize areas such as this. However, he is open to planting some trees. Mr. Malott also stated that the city gets all of their trees from the UTRCA now. Councillor Henderson inquired how many woodlots we have that are protected in the city. Mr. Malott stated that the woodlots in Stratford are mostly privately owned. Some of the woodlots are under a hectare, and therefore are not protected.

Mr. Jorna also inquired about citizens cutting down large, healthy trees on their private property and if there is any by-law addressing this. Mr. Malott explained that currently there is not a private tree by-law, but a proposal has gone to Sub-committee with some options. This proposal will address some of these issues. He did note that there is a tree by-law in place currently, but you have to be in the planning process of a renovation, etc. At this point staff would address the removal and replacement of trees with a landscape plan. With the new proposed plan in place, it will not be in the planning by-law, you will have to obtain a permit to take a tree of a certain diameter. Councillor Burbach noted that other municipalities require a homeowner present a plan for taking down trees. They must show a building plan to justify why they are taking them down.

Matt Orchard inquired if the city's updated urban forestry plan is available to view online? Mr. Malott stated that the 2007 update is, but not sure if the 2018 update is online.

Mr. Jorna gave Quin Malott a plaque from the Arboretum that has decayed and was lying on the ground. He suggested that all the plaques be removed or replaced due to their poor condition.

Councillor Burbach inquired if the city could work with farmers whose land surrounds Stratford to plant trees? Mr. Malott stated that they have worked with landowners in the past, but have mainly planted along creeks and rivers. She also inquired if the city would consider working with the county to partner on tree plantings? Mr. Malott was open to working with E&E and other groups to find locations to plant saplings.

Sharon Poelstra inquired if staff tries to plant native trees? Mr. Malott explained they try to be as diverse as possible with their plantings, using native plantings wherever possible. He estimated that their native plantings would be approximately 50%.

Dave Hanly inquired what committees such as E&E and staff could do to help move Council along to allocate more funds for tree plantings. Mr. Malott explained that their current tree planting budget is substantial and adequately covers what staff can handle each year. They are restricted on when and where they can do plantings. Everything is done in-house and there are only so many staff hours to complete all the projects.

\*Quin Malott no longer present (4:35 p.m.)

## **5.0 UPDATES FROM WORKING GROUPS**

### **Carbon Reduction**

Marianne Hawley updated members that the working group is working on putting together a green team that would be available to volunteer at various events. The Stratford Library currently has a Huron-Perth volunteer group that might also be interested in partnering for the team. They would also like to work on a handbook for green living and post it online. They would also like to increase the online presence explaining the new recycling program and the importance of following the new guidelines. Kate Simpson noted that they have recently had radio time and placed two colour ads for recycling regarding changes as well as the acceptables. Ms. Simpson is always open to feedback on how they can best get information out to citizens with respect to recycling and waste collection. Some suggestions were notices in tax bills, slip a flyer into empty recycle bins after they have been picked up, add the Facebook posts to the city website and inquire if Community Living or students would deliver flyers.

The working group will look into organizing another visit to the passive house for a tour over the summer. They will keep members posted if a date is set.

They would also like to research some recycling pilot-projects, where collection boxes are set up at various locations to collect specific items. Some locations they would like to

target are schools, healthcare providers and garages. Emily Chandler reported the recent mascara wand collection boxes were also a success. Kate Simpson reported that their co-op student placed boxes at local schools and the only negative feedback is that people often place the wrong items in them. Further discussion at the September meeting.

The working group inquired if the new Climate Coordinator could possibly attend the September meeting. Staff will look into arranging.

### **Ecological**

Craig Merkley reported that the media event for the recent shoreline work was held and photos were posted on social media. They still have to do some seeding and planting shrubs around the area.

UTRCA has been taking inventory of the invasive species at the Old Grove. They have recently been targeting Japanese Knotweed. There have been some frag mites in the Grove and they were treated last fall. They will check again this fall. Mr. Merkley noted there is a lot of buckthorn in the Grove and has inquired if the Parks Manager would be willing to divert some funds to take care of this.

Mr. Merkley has received a report regarding the water quality of the Avon River and the numbers are improving.

The trees that were won at the Stratford Home Show and Garden Show have been delivered.

## **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

The committee would like to arrange a follow-up meeting with the CAO prior to his retirement to discuss feedback on the strategic plan. Councillor Burbach noted that recommendations put forth by the E&E Committee, such as reducing the city's carbon footprint and dog waste collection program, will be included in a new roundtable document or environmental action plan. This has been passed at Sub-committee and will now go to Council for approval. Councillor Burbach noted that E&E will have to work with staff to develop the action plan. Members should review the document and be prepared to give feedback in September. Please e-mail Emily Chandler to compile a list.

### **(b) Update on Trashion Week Event – Emily Chandler**

Emily Chandler will forward an update from organizers once she receives it.

**(c) Green Program – Green Cone Digester Letter (Gr. 8's) – Vanni Azzano**

Vanni Azzano shared with the committee a letter submitted by the Grade 8's participating in the Green Program. They are requesting that the City of Stratford investigate a green cone digester program for residents.

**7.0 UPCOMING EVENTS**

Info. Night for Perth Children's Water Festival	June 10, 2019 (7 p.m. @ Wildwood)
Public Info. Session – Waste Processing Site	June 13, 2019 (7-9 p.m. @ Rotary)
Stratford Water Day	April 22, 2020
Perth Children's Water Festival	May 26-28, 2020

**8.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**(a) 2019 E&E Project Plans**

Emily Chandler requested members come to the September meeting with project ideas for the remainder of 2019.

**9.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – September 5, 2019 – 4 pm– Rotary Complex (Mansbridge Rm.)**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Vanni Azzano, seconded by Councillor Burbach that the meeting adjourn. Carried.**

Time: 5:20 p.m.