

Date: November 25, 2024
Time: 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.
Location: Council Chambers – Meeting Room

Attendance: Wayne Olson, Ward One Councillor
Jackie Oblak, Committee Chair
Mike Jones, Committee Member
Ryan Taylor, Committee Member
Gimuel Ledesma, Engineering Technologist
Jason Marr, Director of Public Works
Samantha Witkowski, Environmental Coordinator
Mike Hoch, Committee Member
Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner

Regrets: Natalie Seniuk, Committee Member
Jordan Wilton, Committee Member

1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum

Noting that quorum was present, Chair Jackie Oblak called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

2. Land Recognition Statement

Chair Jackie Oblak recited the land recognition statement.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Mike Jones

Seconded by: Mike Hoch

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the November 25, 2024, regular meeting of the Environmental and Climate Adaption Advisory Committee be adopted.

Carried

4. Approval of the October 28, 2024, Minutes

Moved by: Mike Jones

Seconded by: Mike Hoch

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes for the October 28, 2024, regular meeting of the Environmental and Climate Adaption Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no pecuniary interests disclosed by any of the members present.

6. Town of Lincoln's Working Group on Tree Policies & Practices- Presentation by Ontariogreen- Liz Benneian

Liz Bennein introduced herself and provided an overview of her work in Lincoln and Oakville. She delivered a presentation on the Town of Lincoln's Working Group, explaining the reasons behind its formation and the projects currently underway. The Town of Lincoln is conducting an Urban Forest Management Review as part of a broader effort to improve the health and increase the coverage of the urban forest. This initiative aims to implement best practices and policies to ensure the community benefits from the economic, environmental, and health-related advantages of a robust tree canopy.

Liz explained that the Town of Lincoln formed a dedicated working group, including residents, Council members, and staff, to guide this project. The group's role includes developing a tree procedures and standards manual, integrating urban forest management strategies with climate initiatives, and educating the community about the effects of climate change on urban forests. She noted that the working group was initially formed in response to significant tree loss caused by a developer, which highlighted gaps in existing policies. The group's goal is to develop a comprehensive management strategy.

She spoke about efforts to ensure that planted trees reach their full potential and expressed her willingness to share the Town of Lincoln's initiatives with the Town of Pelham. She also provided an update on their progress, including the ongoing drafting of a private tree protection bylaw. Two focus groups have been conducted, and the bylaw is expected to be completed next year, giving the municipality the ability to review tree removals on private properties.

Liz outlined other achievements, including securing funding, setting a goal of planting 1,000 trees in 2024, hosting tree giveaways, and organizing tree sales for local businesses. She also highlighted the "Rooted in Lincoln" initiative, an online platform that includes a tree map and educational resources to engage the community.

She concluded by summarizing the work accomplished so far and reiterated her enthusiasm for sharing these strategies and lessons with the Town of Pelham.

The committee discussed at length the benefits and drawbacks of a private tree protection by-law. No decision was reached.

7. OP Discussion & Questions- Lindsay Richardson

Lindsay asked the committee if they had reviewed the Official Plan (OP) and provided a timeline for submitting comments. She requested that all comments be submitted by February at the latest, as there will be a public meeting in April and a recommendation to Council in May. The committee discussed whether to submit comments collectively or individually. No firm decision was made, but they agreed to meet the February deadline.

Chair Jackie Oblak raised concerns about the use of "wiggle words" and asked Lindsay to revisit them to ensure the intent is clear. Jackie will send her findings to Lindsay for review. The committee also discussed the possibility of having Lindsay return in January or February, which she was open to.

Motion to Extend the Meeting by 15 Minutes:**Moved By:** Ryan Taylor**Seconded:** Mike Hoch**Carried****8. Action Item Updates from Committee & Staff**

Mike Jones spoke about consulting an expert to catalog trees in Marlene Stewart Streit Park, with a focus on identifying endangered species. The committee discussed the merits of hiring a consultant, with differing opinions expressed.

The committee discussed using a shared Dropbox to exchange files. Erin McCormick will consult with the Clerks department to determine if this is acceptable. Jackie Oblak suggested moving to two meetings per month in the new year. Erin McCormick will also consult with the Clerks department for an answer.

Action Item: Erin McCormick will speak with the Clerks department regarding the committee's requests.

Motion: To Move the Next Committee Meeting Up by One Week to December 16, 2024.

Moved By: Ryan Taylor**Seconded:** Mike Hoch**9. Upcoming Items**

The time did not allow for the discussion of upcoming items.

10. Adjournment**Moved by:** Ryan Taylor**Seconded by:** Mike Hoch

**THAT this Regular Meeting of the Environmental and Climate
Adaption Advisory Committee be adjourned at 11:59 a.m.**

Carried

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2024.



Chair, Jackie Oblak

Administrative Assistant, Erin McCormick