



**CITY OF ORILLIA
Environmental Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

**Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee,
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.**

Present: Michael Williams in the Chair
Councillor Tim Lauer
Tim Adamson (part of meeting)
Jane Bonsteel
Bob Bowles
Javier Cappella
Lee Hanson
Lindsay Telfer

Also

Present: Shawn Crawford, Manager of Legislative Services
Kyle Mitchell, Manager of Source Protection and Operations
Robin Cadeau, Assistant Clerk

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Lauer, seconded by Hanson:

THAT the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on November 17, 2020 be approved as amended to move Report Item 1 to follow Minutes.

Carried by 2/3 of members present.

Disclosure of Interest

None declared.

Deputations

None.

Minutes

1. October 20, 2020.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Lauer:

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting held on October 20, 2020 be adopted, having been printed and distributed.

Carried.

Reports

1. DRAFT Report for Review and Comment:
Development Services and Engineering - re Draft Tree Preservation By-law.
2. Jane Bonsteel, Javier Cappella, Michael Williams - re Response to Draft Tree By-law.

Moved by Telfer, seconded by Bonsteel:

THAT, in response to the Development Services and Engineering Report regarding a Draft Tree By-law, the Environmental Advisory Committee provides the following comments:

- Tree canopy cover provides many benefits to the City including: enhancing property values, reducing road noise, absorbing pollutants from the air, providing shade to streets, sidewalks, businesses and homes which reduces air conditioning costs in summer, reducing wind and providing savings in heating costs in winter, improving water quality by slowing the flow of water during rain events, providing wildlife habitat in the City, facilitating social and educational opportunities, and providing mental health and aesthetic benefits to the residents of Orillia.
- Trees in urban and suburban areas are municipal capital assets that appreciate in value over time as green infrastructure, increasing the ecosystem services and benefits that they provide as they mature.
- The loss of urban tree canopy cover in Orillia due to human, natural causes, or intensification should be seen as a significant issue, as it impacts on the live-ability of the community, public health and local biodiversity.
- Council should consider setting an aspirational target for the tree canopy coverage of at least 40%.
- A public engagement and information campaign is necessary to share the concepts of tree canopy preservation and enhancement including implementation of a new by-law, to hear public and professional feedback, and EAC would be willing to work with staff to facilitate such a campaign.
- The by-law should apply to all properties regardless of size.
- The tree diameter at breast height (DBH) is recommended at 25 cm.
- Any fees/revenues from permits could be used to fund a tree replacement program as part of the implementation of a tree conservation program.
- This is a huge opportunity to incentivize tree planting in addition to managing tree cutting and removal.
- Tree planting on private lands is essential for tree canopy maintenance and improvements.

- EAC respectfully requests permission to attend the Council Committee meeting when this report is presented and discussed.

Carried.

Closed Session

There were no closed session items for this meeting.

Correspondence - Information Items

1. Recent Council Follow-up:
Deputy Clerk - re EAC Report 20-01 Grant Wetlands and Sundial Creek.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Telfer:

THAT the memo dated November 10, 2020 from the Deputy Clerk regarding Grant Wetlands and Sundial Creek be received as information.

Carried.

Correspondence - Action Items

1. Javier Cappella - re Invasive species management on municipal property.

There was consensus of the Committee to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. - Electronic meeting hosted from the Orillia City Centre.

Adjournment

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Bowles:
THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

Meeting adjourned - 5:44 p.m.

[adopted December 15, 2020]

M. Williams,
Chair.