



CITY OF ORILLIA Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

Minutes of the Electronic Special Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee re Feasibility of Banning Single-Use Plastics, Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Williams in the Chair
Councillor Tim Lauer
Tim Adamson
Jane Bonsteel
Lee Hanson

Absent: Bob Bowles
Javier Cappella
Lindsay Telfer

Also Present: Robin Cadeau, Assistant Clerk

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Lauer, seconded by Bonsteel:

THAT the agenda for the special meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee held on February 23, 2021 be approved as distributed.

Carried.

Disclosure of Interest

None declared.

Purpose of Meeting

The Chair advised that the purpose of this meeting was to review and provide comments back to Council on Report EIS-21-01 from the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department regarding the Feasibility of Banning Single Use Plastics.

Correspondence - Information Items

1. Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Health and Environment Justice

Support (HEJSupport), Toronto Environmental Alliance, and Citizen's Network on Waste Management – re Environment and Climate Change Canada Discussion Paper – A proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution.

Moved by Bonsteel, seconded by Hanson:

THAT the Environment and Climate Change Canada discussion paper from the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport), Toronto Environmental Alliance, and Citizen's Network on Waste Management titled "A proposed integrated management approach to plastic products to prevent waste and pollution" be received as information.

Carried.

Reports

1. Deputy Clerk - re Report for Review and Comment:
EIS-21-01- Feasibility of Banning Single-Use Plastics.

Moved by Hanson, seconded by Adamson:

THAT, further to report EIS-21-01 dated January 27, 2021 from the Environment and Infrastructure Services Department regarding the Feasibility of Banning Single-Use Plastics, the Environmental Advisory Committee provides the following comments:

- EAC agrees that the Canadian approach to plastics needs to consider the following at federal and provincial levels:
 - The federal government recommendations do not go far enough and the timeline is not fast enough for reducing plastic production and banning all non-essential and single-use plastic
 - Support reuse systems and infrastructure
 - Require that plastic products be free from toxic additives – ensure that alternatives for replacing plastics are not worse than the original plastic and does not pose other problems within the waste stream
 - Promote a safe toxic free circular economy that does not lead to recirculation of toxic chemicals and contaminated materials
 - Make companies fully responsible for the entire life of their products and packaging with an emphasis to reduce the use of plastics and ensure that any substitutions pose no adverse and/or additional risk to the environment
- We need to think about plastics and fibres that end up in water, litter issues both in water and on land, and the volume and variety of plastics ending up in landfills; the issues need to be addressed separately and distinctly.

- Municipalities need to consider leading with proactive changes and not waiting for the other levels of government to lead the way;
 - Awareness through public education is an element of invoking change that could be happening at the local level.
 - Orillia needs to consider ways to ensure the reduction to the tonnage of plastic waste going into the landfill.
 - Consideration might be given to reviewing the Fort Frances experience with banning plastics at the local level.
 - EAC notes that the upcoming review of the 5 year Waste Minimization Plan provides the opportunity to optimize what could be done locally as outlined in Option 2 of the staff report regarding the restriction of using single-use plastics.
 - Additionally, consideration should be given to utilizing local bans on certain plastic products and encouraging self-responsibility to NOT USE disposable plastics; i.e. bring your own utensils, coffee cup, shopping bags, metal straws, food containers for picking up take-out food or purchasing any retail goods.

Carried.

The Chair will work with staff to prepare the appropriate correspondence to Council.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. - Electronic Meeting.

Adjournment

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

Carried.

Meeting adjourned - 5:24 p.m.

[adopted April 20, 2021]

M. Williams,
Chair.