



West Hants

something inspiring awaits

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Committee
September 8, 2021 – 11:00am
Sanford Council Chambers**

PRESENT: Councillor Debbie Francis, Chair
Councillor Jeff Hartt, Vice-Chair
Councillor Rupert Jannasch
VanEssa Roberts, Community Development Designate
Sara Poirier, Planning and Development Designate
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works
Mark Phillips, CAO

STAFF: Vanessa Lake, Planning Meeting Secretary
Alexander Dunphy, Planner
Deanna Snair, Executive Assistant

REGRETS: Shelleena Thornton, Protective Services Designate

PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

Call to Order and Identification of Designates.

Chair Francis called the meeting to order at 11:02am.

Committee members identified their MCCAP designation. Alexander Dunphy, a new Planner, and Deanna Snair, the new Executive Assistant, were introduced to the Committee.

Approval of Agenda and Additions

Planner Poirier had an addition to the agenda, item 6.1, regarding new resident members. Moved by Councillor Jannasch and seconded by Councillor Hartt that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Jannasch and seconded by Councillor Hartt that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

New Business

Draft GHG Action Plan (Sara Poirier)

Planner Poirier gave a presentation outlining the draft GHG Action Plan. This plan was developed by summer sustainability planner Jessica Pitman. The GHG Action Plan is a requirement to meet Milestone 3 of the Partners for Climate Change (PCP) program. The Committee had achieved Milestones 1 and 2 as of June 9, 2021. The plan describes actions that should be taken, as well as their costs, potential funding sources and Departments responsible for implementation. There are 21 actions, with 11 wish-list actions that would require external funding to be accomplished.

Some Committee members had concerns on whether the current power grid would support a large amount of electric vehicle charging stations in our Region. Others were curious about the viability and funding for hiring a dedicated specialist. Planners Poirier and Dunphy will investigate these matters.

Moved by Councillor Jannasch and seconded by Councillor Hartt that the MCCAP Committee recommends that Council complete Milestone 3 of the PCP program by submitting the report attached as Appendix A to the MCCAP Committee report dated September 8, 2021, to the PCP program. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Resident Member Applications

Planner Poirier explained that both the resident members, Melissa Sheehy-Richard and Greg Pace, have resigned from the Committee. She thanked both Melissa and Greg for their involvement in the Committee. As per the MCCAP Terms of Reference, the Committee requires two resident members. The positions have been advertised. Those interested are asked to send their resume and letter of interest to Sara Poirier by September 28.

Updates from the CAO

CAO Phillips informed the Committee that there will be a Coastal Protection Act meeting later in the day to discuss the proposed regulations being developed by the Province. He spoke with Nova Scotia Power and received an update about the completion of the streetlight conversion. There was a public consultation session held in July by a proposed Wind Farm project group.

Updates from Planning and Development

Planner Poirier informed the Committee that she attended a brainstorming session about the Shared Solar Program being developed by the Province. The idea is that a group would create a large solar array and community members would be able to pay a fee to join the group and receive the benefits of the solar power as an offset on their power bill. This would allow people that may not be able to purchase or install solar power the opportunity to participate in green energy. The Province is in the process of developing regulations for this proposed program.

Adjournment / Next Meeting Date

The next MCCAP meeting is scheduled for November 10 at 11:00am. Should any changes be made, the Committee will be notified. The meeting adjourned at 11:35pm.