



West Hants

something inspiring awaits

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Committee
April 13, 2022 – 11:00am
Sanford Council Chambers / Zoom**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Debbie Francis, Chair
Councillor Rupert Jannasch
Councillor Jeff Hartt
VanEssa Roberts, Community Development Designate
Shelleena Thornton, Protective Services Designate
Sara Poirier, Planning and Development Designate
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works
Rob Butler, Public Works Designate
Mark Phillips, CAO
Carlee Rochon, Financial Services
Mark Williamson, Resident Member
Mike Campbell, Resident Member
- STAFF:** Madelyn LeMay, Director of Planning and Development
Alex Dunphy, Planner
Vanessa Lake, Planning Meeting Secretary

REGRETS: There were no regrets.

PUBLIC: There were no members of the public present.

Call to Order and Identification of Designates

Chair Francis called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Committee members introduced themselves and identified their designation. Chair Francis read the Land Acknowledgements.

Approval of Agenda and Additions

Moved by Rupert Jannasch and seconded by Jeff Hartt that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Sara Poirier and seconded by Rupert Jannasch that the minutes be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion: Workplan Item – Solar Installation (Sara Poirier)

A solar project is on the MCCAP Committee 2022 workplan. Sara requested direction on the potential location, design, and size of a municipal solar project, as well as the overall goal of the project. The committee had the opportunity to visit the Windsor Elms solar installation to better understand how it works, and the costs and upkeep required. John Smith, Director of Environmental Services for Windsor Elms provided information to the committee on-site. The committee discussed different location options, such as the wastewater plant for visibility, or the aquatic centre to reduce the costs of operation. Typically, the solar panels must face due South for optimal generation, which must be taken into consideration as well.

Funding and the overall goal of the project were also discussed. It was considered to begin with a small-scale project, as an example for the rest of the community, and so it can be completed sooner rather than later.

Sara will take these comments into consideration, discuss options with Todd Richard of Public Works, and return to the committee with more information.

Upcoming: Flood Risk Planning (Alex Dunphy)

Alex provided a recap of Flood Risk Planning. This was added to the 2021 MCCAP workplan in January 2020. The MCCAP Committee discussed the potential impact of coastal flooding on development and requested additional information on flood proofing, insurance, and damage assessment. Previous Planner Saira Shah brought the requested information to the committee in February 2021 and received direction the committee at the time. The Coastal Protection Act was approved in 2019, but is not yet in effect, as the regulations are still awaiting approval. This will establish a Coastal Protection Zone. The next steps for this project are to develop policies based on the previous committee's feedback, which will come to the current committee for review and discussion when they are drafted.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Update: Solar Investments (Mark Phillips)

Mark Phillips told the committee that there is not much interest to invest in solar from Council. There is more interest in wind energy. The rate of return is the largest concern. The committee suggested bringing it up to Council again with additional information. Regarding the PACE program discussed in the previous meeting, the target is set for Spring 2023. A program needs to be created and funding needs to be approved.

Workplan Updates

Electric Vehicle Chargers (Sara Poirier)

An application to the EV Boost program was submitted on March 22, and Sara hopes to hear back from them by the end of April.

Feasibility Study for Electric Vehicle Fleet Conversion (Sara Poirier)

This information is coming forward as an announcement. Sara is not currently able to speak about it.

GHG Emissions Reductions Employee (Alex Dunphy)

The application with EcoCanada, for a 75% funded one-year position, has been waitlisted until the next fiscal year. Alex has signed up for the notification list for future application periods. The application with Clean Foundation for a 60%-40% funded, 15-week student position has been approved. Staff received many applications and interviewed 4 potential employees. The student position has been offered with a potential start date of May 19. This employee will choose action items from the action plan to focus on. The Clean Foundation requires the students to conduct some sort of public engagement, so there will be a workshop held for both

staff and the public sometime in July. At the end of their term, this employee will give a presentation to the MCCAP Committee.

Roundtable Discussion

Alex attended a Municipal Energy Learning Group where he learned of amendments to the Electricity Act and the Public Utilities Act and encourages the committee to look at it.

Mike Campbell is interested in how we can adapt to the changing electric environment and requested more information on the flood planning.

Sara notified the committee that a SharePoint folder with all relevant information will be set up so the committee may access all previously discussed information at any time.

Jeff Hart wanted to know if our goal was to reduce or conserve energy, which the committee should consider.

Mark Williamson requested physical numbers to get a better idea of the GHG emission reduction goals.

Rupert Jannasch agreed that MCCAP should remind Council of how important climate change action is. Debbie Francis suggested providing updates to COTW. Sara and Debbie will work on this.

Todd Richard agreed that additional staff support would be helpful.

Next Meeting Date – July

To allow for the student to present their findings, the next meeting will be held in July. The date will be confirmed with the committee when it has been decided.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.