



Minutes

Sustainability Committee

Meeting Date: June 7, 2019
Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers
Prepared by: Sarah Merrifield, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

A. Call to Order

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Also in attendance were Deputy Mayor Bartnicki, Councillor Matrosovs, Councillor Potter, Ken Mehi, Pamela Spence, Julie Scarcella, Rosemary Mesley, and James Stinson.

Regrets were sent from Sally Leppard.

▪ Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Odette Bartnicki

Seconded by: Julie Scarcella

THAT the Agenda of June 7, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda, being Item C.3 Invitation to the Committee, Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Sustainability Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

B. Deputations / Presentations

None

C. New and Unfinished Business

As this was the first meeting with full membership of the Sustainability Committee ("Committee"), members took a moment to provide introductions.

Shawn Everitt welcomed the group, and advised he is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of The Blue Mountains ("Town").

Ken Mehi confirmed his background in civil engineering and noted he is a former ski instructor. Ken advised the bulk of his career is in business consulting, strategic planning, and process improvement. Ken noted he hopes his familiarity with the planning process will assist the Committee in achieving its mandate.

Pamela Spence noted her background in urban and regional planning, and confirmed she holds a Masters in Business Administration. Pamela noted her experience in the development real estate market and advised the Committee of her interest in enhancing sustainability in the Town and preserving the rich natural heritage.

Deputy Mayor Odette Bartnicki noted she ran on a platform of environmental and economic sustainability and advised of her career in education. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki noted she has done work with not-for-profit organizations and holds a Sustainability Certificate from Schulich School of Business.

Sarah Merrifield noted she holds the position of Executive Assistant Committees of Council.

Councillor Andrea Matrosovs advised she is invested in the sustainability of the community which includes the development of attainable housing. Councillor Matrosovs noted her previous experience working with Zero Waste Simcoe, the Beaver River Watershed Initiative, the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust, and further advised she sits on the boards of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. Councillor Matrosovs confirmed the community's vitality is dependent on everyone in the future having their needs met.

Councillor Rob Potter noted his previous work as a newspaper editor and his experience working with the original Sustainable Path Committee. Councillor Potter advised that sustainability includes small businesses thriving, and ensuring the community meets the needs of all ages.

Julie Scarcella advised she has been a resident of the Town for 30 years and cited her background in environmental studies and forestry, and her Masters in Business Administration. Julie noted her experience in developing Integrated Sustainability Community Plans and working with levels of government on green policy development. Julie cited her background in first nations consultation, construction and the built environment, and advised her focus on maintaining the Town as a "calm area" by implementing clear decision-making framework.

Rosemary Mesley noted her background as a legal secretary and as a farmer. Rosemary noted she serves on the Town's Agricultural Advisory Committee in addition to the Sustainability Committee. Rosemary confirmed her hope to see the area maintain its natural beauty and the development of clear communication and procedures regarding Town matters.

James Stinson noted he has recently moved back to the area and confirmed his background in international studies. James advised he has a doctorate in cultural anthropology and is currently teaching at University of Toronto and Trent University. In addition, he is part of a research project at York University regarding “Canadian Conservation in a Global Context”.

C.1 Appointment of a Chair for the Sustainability Committee

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki

THAT the Sustainability Committee approve an equal co-chair, with one chair nominated from the public appointees, and one chair nominated from the Council appointees, Carried.

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Julie Scarcella

THAT the Sustainability Committee appoints Ken Mehi and Rob Potter as co-chairs of the Sustainability Committee for an eighteen-month term from June 7, 2019 to December 1, 2020, Carried.

With the appointment of Ken Mehi and Councillor Potter, Interim Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt relinquished chair.

C.2 Discussion regarding Sustainability Committee Priorities

Councillor Potter opened the floor to discussion regarding the Sustainability Committee priorities.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki requested the Committee review its Mandate, specifically item 1a-d being:

1. Develop and support a community and regional perspective of sustainability based on the four (4) Pillars of Sustainability, being:
 - a) Environmental Stewardship;
 - b) Socio-Cultural Vibrancy/Community;
 - c) Economic Progress and Diversification;
 - d) Financial Viability.

Upon further discussion, the following motion was presented:

Moved by: Julie Scarcella

Seconded by: Ken Mehi

THAT the Sustainability Committee establish a sub-committee consisting of Julie Scarcella, Ken Mehi, Rob Potter, and Pamela Spence to revise the existing Terms of Reference and report back to the Committee for consideration at the July 10, 2019 Sustainability Committee meeting, Carried.

Pamela questioned if the need exists to study the Sustainable Path document prior to revising the Terms of Reference. Julie noted the Sustainable Path document is out of date and the Committee should instead consider if an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan could be completed. Julie further noted the need to understand the requirements of the Federal Gas Tax and how to leverage that funding.

Councillor Matrosovs confirmed she will work with Town staff to develop an information package to provide to Committee members and noted her belief that an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan is the biggest priority for the Committee which would include consultation from the community and stakeholders.

Councillor Matrosovs referenced the May 13, 2019 Council motion regarding PDS.19.44, "Tree Protection Options and Next Steps Report" which provided direction to the Committee as follows:

THAT Council receive Staff Report PDS.19.44 entitled "Tree Protection Options and Next Steps Report";

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide notice to the public regarding the proposed amendments to the current Municipal Tree Preservation By-law No. 2010-68, in order to extend the scope of the existing By-law to include trees on private lands in order to provide interim regulations for the injury or destruction of trees within the Municipality;

AND THAT Council refer the long term solutions captured in Staff Report PDS.19.44 to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and recommendation back to the Committee of the Whole by the end of December, 2019;

AND THAT Councillor Matrosovs be appointed as the Council representative to this matter, Carried.

Councillor Matrosovs noted the need to provide greater protection to the Town's tree canopy, including the urban tree canopy. Councillor Matrosovs noted on July 3, 2019 there will be a public meeting held to consider the proposed changes to the Municipal Tree Preservation By-law. It was noted that the Tree Preservation By-law should be a standing item on the Committee's agenda. Ken noted the sub-committee that is managing the Terms of Reference review should also consider how to manage items that are directed from Council to the Committee.

The Committee reviewed the June 3, 2019 Council motion regarding single-use plastics, which provided direction to the Committee as follows:

WHEREAS the Sustainable Path, 2010, includes the goal: "Become a community that supports a movement towards a zero-waste society" p.35, and:

WHEREAS 82% of Canadians are urging the Federal Government to tackle plastic pollution (Angus Reid Forum Poll March 14-17, 2019), and:

WHEREAS, the Ontario government released Preserving and Protecting our Environment for Future Generations and stated that “Plastics is a priority from our government’s point of view, particularly as we talk about plastics in our waterways” (Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (November 29, 2018), and;

WHEREAS municipalities and cities across Canada, including tourist destinations such as Bayfield, Ontario, Vancouver, BC and world class resorts such as Whistler Blackcomb have already successfully implemented similar actions, and;

WHEREAS many retailers and food service operators in the Town of The Blue Mountains have indicated that they have or are moving towards alternatives to plastic shopping bags at point of sale, plastic straws and stir sticks, and recognizing that some businesses will require additional time to adapt to the elimination of single-use plastics and that the elimination of other plastics such as water bottles will require availability of other options such as filling stations, and;

WHEREAS the Town’s Solid Waste Solution, 2008 established targets of 60% waste diversion by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050, and that our current rate of waste diversion is limited to only 30% which unchanged will exhaust the landfill in half its intended life and is economically inefficient and unsustainable, and further that plastics clog drainage systems and can cause unnecessary flooding, and that discarded plastic bags and containers collect standing water and create a breeding ground for mosquitos which can carry West Nile or Triple E Virus, causing threats to public health and significant infrastructure costs for taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS it is recognized that some single-use plastics may continue to be permitted upon request for specific reasons such as accommodating special or health needs, and for food safety, and it is acknowledged that municipal bans do not prohibit visitors from bringing single-use items to the Town of The Blue Mountains, and;

WHEREAS, a previous motion brought on April 16th, 2019 was referred to the Sustainability Committee which has no meeting scheduled to date, and it is acknowledged that a permanent Town-wide ban will take considerable time, resources, education, publication and other work over a longer period, and;

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL adopt, support and encourage an interim voluntary ban on the use of single-use plastic shopping bags, plastic straws and stir sticks effective July 1st, 2019, and that Council direct staff to:

1. Promote a voluntary ban on single-use plastic bags, straws, stir sticks by publishing messaging in the upcoming tax bill mailing, on the Town’s website home page and through all of the Town’s commonly-used media beginning no later than June 15th 2019 that states that includes the following position:

“Council supports the protection of the environment of the Town of The Blue Mountains through the reduction and future elimination of single-use plastic bags, straws, stir sticks and water bottles, and encourages all businesses, community members and visitors to avoid the use of these products whenever possible. Council recognizes and appreciates the efforts of all stakeholders towards measures that support the sustainability of the natural environment in the Town of The Blue Mountains.”

AND THAT Council refer the following items to the Sustainability Committee for consideration and recommendation to Council by August 26, 2019 to:

2. Phase out the sale of bottled water and the use of single-use plastic cups, straws and stir sticks at all Town-owned facilities and events by December 2019 in order to model good environmental practices;
3. Develop a three-year plan to increase the number of water bottle re-filling stations on Town-owned properties, to be included in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budget cycles;
4. Develop recognition/reward signage (i.e. “We’ve gone green for a Blue future” or similar) for business operators who model good environmental practices by not supplying single-use shopping bags, water bottles, straws and stir sticks;
5. Investigate the development and costs of a Town of Blue Mountains reusable bag-for-life or fabric bag options with appropriate logo for possible purchase by retailers at cost, and to be used for various promotional events; by the Town;

AND THAT COUNCIL direct staff to work with the Sustainability Committee and all stakeholders through a public consultation process, to develop a plan for inclusion in the 2020 Budget to reduce and/or eliminate single use plastics effective July 1st, 2020.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki requested a recorded vote:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Bartnicki, Odette | Yay |
| Bordignon, Peter | Yay |
| Matrosovs, Andrea | Yay |
| Potter, Rob | Yay |
| Sampson, Rob | Yay |
| Uram, Jim | Yay |
| Soever, Alar | Yay |

The motion is **CARRIED**.

With consideration for the direction provided, the following motion resulted:

Moved by: Andrea Matrosovs

Seconded by: Ken Mehi

THAT the Sustainability Committee request that Council provide to the Sustainability Committee at its earliest opportunity, and prior to messaging being sent out, a clear and consistent interpretation of the approved resolution of June 3, 2019 regarding the subject of single use plastics, Carried.

Julie noted the Committee required further information regarding the community consultation process that was involved in bringing this motion forward, and the research that was conducted. She advised she will provide a list of requested information to the Committee. It was noted the community believes a unanimous ban on single-use plastics and some clarification is needed around the motion's wording.

With the introduction of the motion below, Ken noted a sub-committee to clarify messaging regarding the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion was premature.

Moved by: Odette Bartnicki

Seconded by: Pamela Spence

THAT the Sustainability Committee establish a sub-committee consisting of Odette Bartnicki, Pamela Spence, and Julie Scarcella in co-ordination with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Communications and Economic Development Coordinator to clarify the messaging regarding the June 3, 2019 single-use plastics motion, Carried.

C.3 Invitation to the Committee

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki and Councillor Potter advised the Committee of a screening of the film "Resilience: Transforming our Community" on June 17, 2019. An additional screening of the film is taking place in Wiarton on June 11, 2019. Committee members will be forwarded the invitation to the June 17, 2019 screening.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki noted she has been in discussion with the Province's two experts on ecological offsetting and is setting up a time for a presentation to the Committee. More details will be made available once confirmed.

D. Public Comment Period

D.1 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Sustainability Committee matters. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

None

E. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., Town Hall, Council Chambers

F. Adjournment

Moved by: Ken Mehi

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT the Sustainability Committee does now adjourn at 12:10 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.