



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, September 18, 2023
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Vice Chair)
Nicole Arsenault
Shun Chen
Alain Godin
Denis Heng
Kristen Martens
Ken Turriff*

Members Absent: Councillor Rachel Gilliland (Chair)
Pippette Eibel

Other Attendees: Sebastian Contarin, Energy and Climate Change Analyst
Jaclyn Grossi, Deputy Town Clerk

*Attended Electronically

1. Call to Order

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the

Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Shun Chen

Seconded by Alain Godin

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2023

Moved by Nicole Arsenault

Seconded by Kristen Martens

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting minutes of May 15, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Energy and Climate Change Analyst; Re: Corporate Environmental Action Plan 2022 Progress Report

Staff presented an overview of the 2022 Corporate Environmental Action Plan progress report and highlighted the successes within six themes identified as; water conservation, sustainable urban development, waste

reduction and diversion, biodiversity and natural heritage, climate change and energy, and environmental awareness.

The Committee discussed and inquired about various aspects including the sustainability of highlighted improvements, external factors associated with the electric vehicle charging station trends, communication of data points, the three types of scope emissions, and waste diversion programs.

Moved by Shun Chen

Seconded by Nicole Arsenault

1. That the memorandum regarding Corporate Environmental Action Plan 2022 Progress Report and presentation be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding the Corporate Environmental Action Plan 2022 Progress Report and presentation be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

7.2 Memorandum from Energy and Climate Change Analyst; Re: Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Renewal

Marlen Aleman, Project Manager, and Max Chute, Energy Analyst of WalterFedy, presented an overview of the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan project milestones and introduced their team.

The Committee discussed and inquired about various aspects including timelines associated with the identified project milestones, selection of municipal comparators, and flexibility of interim targets out to 2050. They also expressed their concern with the continuation of an 80% reduction target by 2050 as the global standards are moving toward a net zero target, and expressed interest in seeing the Town strive for a more ambitious goal.

Moved by Nicole Arsenault

Seconded by Alain Godin

1. That the memorandum regarding Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Renewal be received; and

2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan Renewal be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

8.1 Memorandum from Deputy Town Clerk; Re: Committee Terms of Reference

Staff provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of ad hoc/advisory committees and local boards, and provided additional information on the flow of comments from the committee to Council.

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Alain Godin

1. That the memorandum regarding Committee Terms of Reference be received for information.

Carried

9. New Business

The Committee inquired about studies specific to the Town of Aurora regarding the environmental impacts of the reclassification of greenbelt lands in other municipalities in Ontario, and the recent housing pledge.

The Committee also recognized that David Tomlinson passed away on September 8, 2023 and acknowledged all his environmental efforts in the Town of Aurora.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Shun Chen

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Carried