

# Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) - Minutes

Jan. 14, 2016

Call to Order – at 5:32pm.

In Attendance: Carol Williams, Anne de Gobeo, Stephen Ireland, Chuck MacInnis, Silvia Blanchard, Gary Brown, Shelley Innes Regrets: M. Cathrae (new father!)

Approval/Additions to Agenda – M/S – S. Blanchard/ S Innes that the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried.

## Old Business

Web page/Social Media – Alternatives to salt for thawing ice and Earth Hour could be added to social media.

Landfill site – C. MacInnis will get stats on landfill.

Recycling Bins – C. MacInnis will speak with Dave Power about feasibility of tendering construction of recycling bins to local contractors.

LED lights – all but 9 installed in the community.

Declaration of the Right to a Healthy Environment – G. Brown received Jill Armstrong's editing suggestions. We agreed with the suggestions and return the declaration to Council for adoption. The Declaration is attached.

Strategic plan – MOTION: M/S by G. Brown/C. Williams that A. DeGobeo and G. Brown serve as alternating representatives on the development of the Strategic Plan. Carried.

Waste Diversion Consultation with Alfred Von Mirbach – S. Ireland will keep us informed on further developments. S. Innes suggested that perhaps Merrickville Goes Green might support the community's waste diversion by making composters and large yellow recycling boxes available. For further waste diversion she drew attention to York Region.ca and their "Bindicator" program which provides the best options for where less- common items should be sent for recycling ie. Styrofoam.

## New Business

Pipeline – We were reminded to stay abreast of pipeline developments.

New Waste-Free Ontario Act Bill 151 – This emphasizes the need for education and promotion. It provides us with the opportunity for advancing the education and promotion of waste diversion.

Re-chargeable batteries – proper local disposal spots could also be part of our social media submissions.

## Carried Forward

Take Vision 2020 off agenda.

Website and social media updates to be included on each agenda.

A final discussion of the terms of reference will take place at the next meeting.

Round Table - nothing

Adjournment – M/S S. Innes/ S. Blanchard. Carried.

Next meeting Feb. 25, 2016, 5:30

## **Merrickville-Wolford Declaration of The Right To A Healthy Environment**

Whereas the Council of Merrickville-Wolford understands that people are part of the environment, and that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the well-being of our community;

Merrickville-Wolford supports the following:

1. All people have the right to live in a healthy environment, including:
  - to breathe clean air
  - to drink clean water
  - to consume safe food
  - to access nature to know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment
  - to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment
2. Merrickville-Wolford will consider the precautionary principle: “where threats of serious or irreversible damage to human health or the environment exist, the MUNICIPALITY will endeavour to prevent degradation of the environment and protect the health of its citizens.”
3. Merrickville-Wolford will consider costs to human health and the environment when evaluating proposed actions and alternatives.
4. Merrickville-Wolford, will consider actions within its jurisdiction, to help fulfill residents’ right to a healthy environment
  - a. Ensure equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens within the municipality, preventing the development of pollution “hot spots”;
  - b. Ensure infrastructure and development projects address current environmental legislation standards
  - c. Address climate change by monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and implementing where necessary adaptation measures;
  - d. Responsibly increase housing density;
  - e. Encourage walking, and cycling as healthy modes of transportation;
  - f. Ensure the provision of safe and accessible drinking water as per provincial legislative requirements;
  - g. Support the availability of safe foods;
  - h. Encourage the reduction of solid waste and promote recycling and composting;
  - i. Consider accessible green spaces in the communities of Merrickville-WolfordMerrickville-Wolford will consult with residents.
5. Merrickville-Wolford will provide a copy of this declaration to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.