

Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

Nov 15, 2012

Present: Anne DeGobeo, Carol Williams, Shelley Innes, Councillor Dave Nash, Councillor Don Halpenny, Silvia Blanchard, Tom Beach.

No pecuniary interests declared

Addition to agenda New Business – Merrickville Goes Green report, Presentation next meeting by Scot Kelland.

M/S Shelley Innes/Silvia Blanchard to accept agenda. Carried

Minutes were approved by email following the last meeting.

Old Business

1. Bike Racks

Silvia will be attending a meeting in Easton's Corners sponsored by a group which is promoting bicycling in the area. During the meeting the group will be discussing bike racks and bicycle trails.

ACTION: Sylvia to report back at the next EAC meeting.

2. Nov 22nd Waste Management meeting in Merrickville from 4 to 7

ACTION: Members of the EAC to attend the public meeting on Waste Management at 4 pm, as a group.

ACTION: Annie to send Tim Malloy an invitation to attend the December 13th EAC meeting to discuss the information presented at the Waste Management Meeting and what the EAC learned from visiting the Perth recycling and landfill site.

Group discussed clear garbage bags and are divided on it. All members can respond by email to the township.

The recycling and garbage contracts have been awarded to a new contractor. The township will be saving funds, larger bins will be provided for recycling and more plastics will be accepted for recycling.

3. Green Building Design

Annie De Gobeo reviewed what neighbouring municipalities are doing to promote green building. They are encouraging residents to consider green options and are

making them aware of the Energuide Energy Star and the Canada GreenBuilding Council's LEED standards. There is very little enforcement through by-laws, it is mostly encouragement to consider green options for building and for renovations.

In Ontario there are more Bylaw restrictions to commercial, multi residential and municipal buildings than for individual residences.

Kingston has a list of municipal buildings that have made major changes that meet LEED silver and gold standards. Council decided to spend additional funds in building and renovations which will be offset by a cost saving in operations.

It was suggested that the Township of Merrickville Wolford could have a green building options brochure available to give to people who are considering building or renovations or are asking for a building permit.

ACTION: Annie and Carol to check if brochures or funding for them is available from Federal or Provincial governments.

4. How to dispose of non hazardous, but chemical based waste products.

Following a discussion on options for disposing of chemical based waste products EAC members agreed to research options. There are existing programs which may help such as the Stewardship Ontario program which includes the Orange Drop for chemically based materials.

North Grenville has weekly days people can bring in household hazardous wastes.

ACTION: Shelley to research information from the Suzuki Foundation and the Stewardship Ontario program.

ACTION: Members to ask about hazardous waste at the municipal information session on Waste Management.

New Business

1. Vermicomposting.

Scott Kelland has a proposal to set up a large vermicomposting at the Waste Management Site. He wishes to present the proposal to the EAC and, if well received, he would present it to M W Council. It could be a cost effective public private partnership where operating costs would be limited to the provision of space and the collection of the composted material.

|It was noted that before Council would be able to discuss composting options they need more information about the requirements and options for adding composting to the current Certificate of Approval from the Ministry.

ACTION: Shelley to invite Scott to make a presentation at the next meeting and Annie to invite Tim Malloy to participate in discussions when she is inviting him to the December EAC meeting.

2. Merrickville Goes Green

MGG is supportive of the Farmers Market and wants to assist it to operate and to grow.

MGG will assist with insurance premiums (aprox \$600) for 2012 and with signage.

MGG is working with Our Green Shelf to offer to customers the option to fill their own containers with shampoos, soap and other products. If there is interest, Our Green Shelf will buy bulk products to offer the option to customers.

The School Garden will go ahead but it will be strictly a school project because of security and safety issues. There is still an interest to have a Community Garden and the new suggestion is a location at a seniors' residence. MGG will be begin discussions with management of the residence.

Roundtable - No major issues, everyone is busy and supporting a healthy environment.

Next meeting Dec 13th at 5:15

Adjournment M/S Shelley Innes/Tom Beach.

