

# Environmental Advisory Committee

## Minutes

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**Present:** Councillor Chuck MacInnis, Councillor Steve Ireland, Anne de Gobeo, Gary Brown, Martin Cathrae, Carol Williams, Claire Sexton, Andy Boffee

**Absent:** regrets Shelley Innes

Call to Order by Gary Brown at 17:35

Approval/Additions to Agenda: None, M/S: Carol/Anne

No pecuniary interests declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting were passed by email M/S: Carol/Shelley.

### Old Business

- Styrofoam Usage – Postponed to next meeting
- Wood Chipper Potential Update - Gary reports that Donald Telford would be interested in providing a chipper for a community chipping. 2" or less would be the size limit of brush. We have several ideas on what we could do.
  - Have a chipping day to help divert matter from the landfill at a rate of \$150 an hour (Donald's Rate).
  - Another option is that Donald currently takes chips to landfill to be used for cover. It could be diverted for the trail group.
  - A tandem load of wood chips could also be purchased (by the trails committee) for \$80. We'll have to ask the municipality's insurance provider to see if there are any issues insurance wise. So for the second option of having the current chips being diverted from the landfill, we'll plan to divert it to Collar Hill and the back of the fairground for the Trails Committee. Andy agrees that those locations are acceptable from an operations standpoint (he is our municipalities Bylaw Officer). Gary will talk to Donald and refer him to the bylaw officer or public works manager and request that we begin diverting wood chips.
- Obsolete meds and pesticides – Carol reports that there is no collection around Merrickville-Wolford, closest is Picton. (This is for farm meds and pesticides). Gary thinks that we could talk to the veterinarian in town to see if they would take the meds back. Gary also has a pesticide license. However at this time we will refer this issue to the Agricultural Committee.
- PITCH IN 2017 (last week in April) – Carol reports everything is ready to go. The landfill will accept waste from April 22 to May 6. Anne will coordinate our group and route. We'll ask the Librarian to remind people via social media of this event and where the bags are etc.
- Strategic Plan C section:
  - C.1.2: Claire reports she went to two meetings, Communities in Bloom (CiB), and Mad Gardeners. CiB has some plans in progress for the cenotaph park. CiB is happy for us to

help out, Mad Gardeners are willing to help us out. We need to find out places where we can plant. Andy reports on 5 municipally owned locations that are available for planting. Claire will be starting seedlings soon, and the plan is to have them available by the end of May. Claire will continue to go to their meetings to keep ourselves coordinated. Once we get these flowers in place we could also investigate being designated as a bee friendly town. We'll make sure to split our planting between Merrickville and Eastons Corners.

- C.1.2: Gary brings up cleaning up some invasive species like buckthorn. Andy reports that the municipality is hoping to get a flail type mower to help with the growth in ditches, which would include buckthorn. Maybe the plan longterm could be to have a list of invasive species and then plans on how to deal with them.
- C.1.1: Gary brings up that we should think about shoreline buffer zones. It will help with shoreline retention, water quality and with species coming up on shore (geese). RCVA has a shoreline naturalization program and it offers reduced plant costs, consultation, site visits, how to's. Councillor MacInnis will bring a report to next meeting regarding this.
- C.1.1: Carol asks about directing downspouts into the storm sewer directly. As far as we know this is allowed but the heavy downpours which are becoming more common are problematic in that they overload the system and go directly into the river. If household downspouts could be directed into vegetation, the system would not be overloaded. Long term it would be good to look at sending the storm sewer water through vegetation, like an artificial wetland.
- C.1.3: Woodchip diversion discussion above.
- C.1.3: Encouraging people to compost. We can collaborate with Merrickville Goes Green on a composting education component. We will target a date in May and talk with MGG to coordinate. Claire offers Healthily Ever After's property as a location. We could offer a composter as a prize to attendants. We'll ask Shelley (MGG) about partnering with us.
- C.1.3 now that the reuse centre is being fixed up, we need to educate people on the fact that we have one, where it is etc. We'd like to ask the municipality that signage be created for the reuse centre. Andy has offered to ask a local artist if they would be interested in working on a catchy sign for the centre.
- Somewhat unrelated to the above strategic planning, getting a drinking water source. Possibly if we get the public washroom that could be a location. We'll recommend to council that as part of the public washroom there should be included a water bottle refill station/drinking fountain.

#### New Business

- N/A

Next Meeting: April 27<sup>th</sup>, 17:30.

Adjournment: 18:52 M/S Anne/Claire