



Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Minutes

March 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Ginette Best
 Janet Dignem
 Brian Kelly, Vice-Chair
 Patti Mavins
 Catherine Philogene
 Bryan Widner, Chair
 Bob Willard
 Zartasha Zainab

Regrets: Wenda Abel
 Alex Van Camp

Also Present: Councillor Cardwell, Mayor's Designate
 Sarah Shields, Staff Liaison, Project Manager, Sustainability and
 Climate Change
 Kristin Palilionis, Staff Liaison, Climate Change Coordinator
 Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording
 Secretary)

-
1. Call to Order
 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by Janet Dignem

That the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee minutes of February 5, 2025 be approved.

Carried

4. Delegations

There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool (vHEAT) Update

Sarah Shields provided an update regarding the Virtual Home Energy Assessment Tool (vHEAT). Ms. Shields stated that vHEAT was available on the Durham Greener Homes program website, and that the program was developed by Windfall Ecology Centre on behalf of Durham Region. She stated that the Town's Sustainability and Climate Change Division works with the Region of Durham to help gain support for this program. She further stated that Town staff had developed a communication plan to advertise the vHEAT program at the household level in Whitby.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether homeowners were able to contest the vHEAT results;
- the status of the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee's recommendation to Council regarding the vHEAT program;
- options for homeowners to opt out of the vHEAT program;
- whether residents would have access to assessments on any home or just their own home;
- public facing information included on the energy assessment map;
- the status of the vHEAT program in the Town of Whitby; and,
- details about the advertising campaign through Landmark Cinemas.

5.2 Sustainability Newsletter

Kristin Palilionis provided an update regarding the Sustainability Newsletter. Ms. Palilionis stated that the first edition was released in February and that the second edition would be released in April. She requested feedback from the Committee regarding whether Members would like to provide content or editorial support for the Sustainability Newsletter.

5.3 March Sustainability Events and Environmental Awareness Days

Kristin Palilionis provided information regarding March Sustainability Events and Environmental Awareness Days which included:

- World Sustainable Procurement Day on March 21, 2025;
- United Nations National Day of Forests on March 21, 2025;
- World Water Day on March 22, 2025;
- Earth Hour on March 22, 2025, 8:30-9:30 p.m.; and,
- International Day of Zero Waste on March 30, 2025.

6. Council Update

Councillor Cardwell provided an update regarding:

- the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee 2025-2026 Work Plan and 2024 Annual Report;
- discussions about a Canada First Purchasing Policy;
- the 2023-2026 Community Strategic Plan;
- supporting the Provincial and Federal Government's negotiations with the United States;
- new and updated policies on building heights and densities in Protected Major Transit Station Areas (PMTSA);
- the new Service Whitby centralized Customer Service Framework; and,
- provincial funding for the Town of Whitby through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- clarification about the geographical areas impacted by the policies pertaining to building heights and densities of the PMTSA;
- whether the building heights and densities would be comparable to the buildings in the Pickering PMTSA; and,
- considerations for garbage/recycling programs for the PMTSA to manage the increase in refuse due to increased density.

7. Other Business

7.1 Request for a Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Jury Panel Volunteer for Two Calls for Art

Kristin Palilionis received a request for a Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee volunteer to serve on a Town-led jury panel for two upcoming calls for art. Ms. Palilionis advised that the jury panel would be reviewing submissions for the Roebuck Street Road Mural and Concrete Barriers, and the Whitby Waterfront Street Piano. She stated that submissions would be circulated to panel members by April 7, 2025.

Janet Dignem volunteered to serve as the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee jury panel member.

7.2 Committee Budget Planning and Committee Work Plan Action Items

Bryan Widner requested feedback from the Committee regarding the Committee's budget, work plan, and strategy for implementing work plan items.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- participating in Earth Day litter cleanup and selecting a park for cleanup;
- adopting a park for litter cleanup;
- participating in the Spring Tree Planting event hosted by LEAF; and,
- utilizing the Sustainability Newsletter for awareness initiatives.

8. Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by Brian Kelly

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.