



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD
PROCEEDINGS OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**ECCBAC 4-2023
Friday, May 5, 2023
Video Conference**

Committee Members Councillors Longo and O'Hare; L. Borland, J. Hamilton,
Present via Video J. Prytula (Committee Chair)
Conference

Absent: E. Salter (Committee Vice Chair), A. Schmucker, L. Daniels

Staff Present via S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, S. Hansen, Legislative
Video Conference: Assistant, T. O'Toole, Manager, Planning

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Prytula called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Committee Chair Prytula read the land acknowledgement.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: Councillor O'Hare

Seconded by: Councillor Longo

That Agenda ECCBAC 4-2023, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

5. Adoption of Minutes

5.1 ECCBAC 3-2023

Friday, March 31, 2023

Moved by: J. Hamilton

Seconded by: Councillor O'Hare

The Minutes ECCBAC 3-2023 being the minutes of the Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory Committee meeting held on March 31, 2023, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Presentation

6.1 Municipal Class EA Study: Road Extension between Kottmeir/ Merrit and Egeter/ Towpath

S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, provided information respecting the road extension, and advised there is only one emergency access route to Port Robinson West. He provided three options for the road extension and secondary access route.

Committee members expressed their preference for option three for the reason that it does not interfere with the provincially designated wetland. Committee members were open to seeing additional options.

Committee Chair Prytula enquired about the project start date. S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, stated the project would likely begin in 2026/ 2027.

7. Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

8. Committee Business

8.1 Broderick Avenue Reconstruction

S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, informed the committee that staff have taken residents' feedback and redesigned the Broderick Avenue Reconstruction. L. Borland enquired whether there will be bike lanes. S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, stated there will not be bike lanes.

Committee Chair Prytula enquired whether construction will work around existing trees and whether more trees will be planted. S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, advised that trees will be planted every 15 meters. He added they will work around existing trees and remove and replace trees that are in bad condition.

Committee members discussed options for grass and vegetation to be planted on the boulevard. K. Royer, suggested Vineland Research Centre which has a tool to help choose local plants.

Councillor Longo enquired what the next steps in the process are. S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, stated staff will finish the new reconstruction design, hold another public information center and then bring the design to Council in July.

8.2 Boulevard Planting

Committee Chair Prytula discussed the need to change the language in the existing bylaw.

8.3 Community Gardens

Committee Chair Prytula has requested Erin Riseing, Project Coordinator, Niagara Garden Network, present at a special committee meeting in July.

9. Roundtable Discussion

9.1 Dog Feces

Committee Chair Prytula suggested adding feces receptacles in the city. J. Hamilton informed the Committee that they have feces receptacles in Halifax, however, there is a concern regarding them not being emptied and the significant cost.

Committee members expressed interest in putting up additional signage. J. Hamilton volunteered to complete additional research.

9.2 Healthy Urban Forest

Committee Chair Prytula informed the committee that Liz Benneian, Chair, Biodiversity and Climate Action Collective Niagara, connected with him about creating a healthy urban forest. Committee Chair Prytula advised he would call a special committee meeting to be held on June 2 at 9:00 a.m. for a presentation on healthy urban forests.

9.3 Tree Canada Grant

J. Hamilton advised that the Tree Canada Grant application opens in October with results announced in March.

Moved by: J. Hamilton
Seconded by: Councillor O'Hare

That a grants working group **BE CREATED** for the duration of the Council term.

CARRIED

9.4 Cigarette Butts

L. Borland raised a concern with cigarette butts being left on the ground. Committee Chair Prytula informed the committee that the City of London has a cigarette butt clean up day.

9.5 Council Report Template

Councillor Longo informed the committee that he brought forward a motion to council seconded by Councillor O'Hare to add environmental impact to the council report template.

9.6 10,000 Trees Initiative

Moved by: Councillor O'Hare
Seconded by: L. Borland

That a 10,000 tree initiative working group **BE CREATED** for the duration of the Council term.

CARRIED

9.7 Community Events

K. Royer informed the committee of upcoming community events including a tree-planting event in Woodgate Park in St. Catharines on May 13 and Niagara Geopark Group Trail Summit meeting at the Niagara on the Lake, Niagara College Campus on June 2.

9.8 Greenhouse Gas Emission

J. Hamilton enquired whether the City has a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. S. Dunsmore, Manager, Engineering, informed the committee that he is not aware of one. Councillor O'Hare informed the committee that Council passed a motion to join a partnership with a group who will provide the City with tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Joe Prytula
Committee Chair

Sydney Hansen
Legislative Assistant

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk