

KEAF Climate Change Working Group - Minutes

March 12, 2012, 7:00 pm, Sir John A MacDonald Room, City Hall

Present: Aaron Ball, Tom Carpenter, Ian Dubin, Robert Foster, Janis Grant

Regrets: Councillor Sandy Berg, Peter Herbert, Brian Kaye, Darko Matovic

1) Review of Minutes of meeting held January 30, 2011

Minutes were pre-approved by e-mail and presented to the Feb. 13, 2012 KEAF.

2) Business Arising

- a) Response from Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department on Solar Farm Environmental Issues

Staff examined a list of solar farm environmental issues prepared by Ian Dubin to determine which were covered by existing legislation. They presented their findings in an e-mail dated March 8, 2012. The response was discussed and raised a number of questions, which require further clarification. It was decided to request more information from the Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department.

If he is willing, Brian Kaye, will also be asked to review the list against legal requirements.

Action: Janis to speak to Paul MacLachy; Ian to speak to Brian Kaye

- b) Next steps in preparing a final Solar Panel document for KEAF approval

The deadline to report on Solar Panel Farms to EITP has been changed.

Action: Janis Grant to determine new due date

- b) Update from Tom Carpenter on EITP motion re. effects of climate change to city infrastructure.

Tom presented a paper on this issue, which is essentially complete. Suggestions were made to include some additional information. He will review these and forward the draft for review.

Action: Tom Carpenter

New Business

- a) City of Kingston Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2006-2009)
– discussion of draft terms of reference for LAP.

The draft terms of reference were reviewed and changes suggested. Ian will send out a reworded version for group consultation via e-mail.

Action: Ian Dubin

b) LAP next steps

The Climate Change Working Group looks forward to working with the new consultant.

c) Suggestions for Student Research Projects – Bob Foster

Bob presented five proposals for student research related to KEAF projects and the “Partners in Climate Protection Program” which is designed to encourage municipalities to mitigate and adapt to global warming. All 5 proposals were accepted and will be presented to KEAF.

A discussion followed regarding the need to ensure that student research will not impact on city staff time but be under the full supervision of the teacher. There is also a concern that the projects must be approved by Council, which will delay them beyond the university’s deadline for submission. Bob will discuss both issues with responsible staff.

Action: Bob Foster

Next Meeting

Janis will not be able to attend the April 2 meeting of KEAF. Ian will present the CCWG’s report.

Next CCWG meeting April 16 at 7 pm

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant

KEAF Climate Change Working Group - Minutes

April 16, 2012, 5:30 pm, Sir John A MacDonald Room, City Hall

Present: Aaron Ball, Councillor Sandy Berg, Ian Dubin, Robert Foster, Janis Grant, Darko Matovic

Guests: Paul MacLatchy, Lance Norman, Mike Sewell, Gord Taylor

Regrets: Tom Carpenter, Peter Herbert, Brian Kaye,

1) Opening Remarks

Paul MacLatchy, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department and Lance Norman, Mike Sewell and Gord Taylor, citizens concerned about solar panel development in the Countryside District were welcomed to the meeting.

1) Review of Minutes of meeting held March 12, 2012

The minutes were previously approved by e-mail

2) Business Arising

- a) Response from Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department on Solar Farm Environmental Issues

While an initial e-mail report had been prepared by his department, Mr. MacLatchy understands that CCWR requires more detail. He will prepare a formal report to KEAF on the potential for environmental impacts (negative and positive) due to large scale ground mounted solar farm development. The report will address general impacts of solar farms rather than focusing on specific applications. It will be delivered to KEAF in June.

While municipalities have no authority to approve projects under the Green Energy Act, Mr MacLatchy announced that they now have a new process to raise issues with developers and the Ministry of the Environment. A document regarding the proposed solar farms will be presented to City Council Tuesday, April 17 for approval.

Councillor Berg announced that Samsung is holding a public meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, April 17). A FAQ has been published which addresses questions raised with them. While the meeting is required as part of public consultation under GEA, Councillor Berg has found Samsung officials open, interactive and receptive. Mr. Dubin disagreed, stating that residents have not had their concerns addressed.

Two citizens, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Sewell addressed the meeting. They agreed that officials from Samsung do listen to their concerns but will not commit to addressing them.

- b) Update from Tom Carpenter on EITP motion re. effects of climate change to city infrastructure.

Tom was unable to attend the meeting. He has completed a draft paper which he plans to circulate to group members.

Action: Tom Carpenter

- c) City of Kingston Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2006-2009) – discussion of draft terms of reference for LAP.

Mr. Dubin has sent out a reworded draft terms of reference. There were no comments. The draft was forwarded to the Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department. Mr. MacLatchy announced that David Ship has been assigned to the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Action Plan.

A contract has been signed with TriEdge to update the report for 2010/11. Using the terms of reference, Mr. Ship will prepare an F for P to hire a contractor this year to develop a local action plan. He hopes to go to public consultation by October. Mr. McLatchy will arrange to have Mr. Ship meet with the CCWG at our next meeting.

- d) Suggestions for Student Research Projects

Student Research proposals prepared by Bob Foster have not gone to KEAF and therefore have not been approved by Council. There is still time provided they go to the May KEAF meeting. Mr. Matovic will assist with student project proposals, particularly with respect to the Greenhouse Gas LAP. He will forward a sample proposal to group members. The proposals need to reach the Universities and College by July.

Action: Bob Foster, Darko Matovic

New Business

Ian Dubin gave a verbal report on a Climate Change Public Meeting held at City Hall on April 14.

Next CCWG meeting: May 28 at 5:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant