

KEAF Climate Change Working Group

Minutes of meeting held January 30, 2012, 5:30 pm, Sir John A MacDonald Room, City Hall

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

Regrets: Peter Herbert

Guests: Clarke Ilan, Lisa Ilan, Mike Sewell, Paul MacLatchy

1) Review of Minutes of meeting held January 16, 2011

Minutes were approved

2) Discussion of Motion Passed by December EITP on Effects of Climate Change to City Infrastructure

The following motion was passed at the December EITP meeting:

WHEREAS Climate Change influences may be causing negative impacts on City infrastructure (ie. Flood events, etc.) and the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) has a group of specialists researching aspects, trends and effects of climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) be directed to report their findings to the Environment, Infrastructure and Transportation Policies Standing Committee at such a time as they have sound date; And THAT if possible, a recommendation and/or definition of 'Normal' events and trends be included.

Tom Carpenter has approached a number of agencies and learned there is general consensus that climate change is real. City engineers are reviewing recent weather phenomena and considering adaptive strategies. Tom will prepare a paper and recommendations for review by the CCWG, KEAF and EITP.

3) Briefing on Passage of Solar Farm Motion – Councillor Berg

The following motion was passed by City Council on January 24:

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Councillor Scott

WHEREAS the Corporation of the City of Kingston welcomes unique, creative solutions for renewable energy in our community where history and innovation thrive, and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Kingston welcomes companies looking to build solar panel arrays on our rural lands while considering impacts to environmental, social, and cultural aspects during the planning and development of solar arrays,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario be requested to ensure water quality during project planning and development by considering aspects of turbidity and erosion, stormwater management, and cleaning methodologies and products, and

THAT that the Province of Ontario be requested to ensure adequate setbacks and buffer zones of the completed projects by considering aspects of wildlife corridors, berms and/or living fences as visual and sound barriers for neighbours and travelers through the bucolic splendour of rural and historic Kingston, and

THAT that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable John Gerretsen, Attorney General and the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources, for their consideration of future solar array projects.

Councillor Berg explained that the motion was drafted as a result of a request from Attorney General John Gerretsen. Solar farms planned for Countryside District are subject to review under the Green Energy Act but do not receive the environmental scrutiny that is required through the municipal planning process. Rate payers have complained that required meetings with the developer under the Act have been less than satisfactory leaving them with many unanswered questions. Mr. Gerretsen suggested that the motion be brought to the attention of the Ministers of the Environment and Natural Resources. Councillor Berg will also meet with Samsung on January 31.

Mr. Sewell addressed the meeting on behalf of the affected rate payers expressing frustration that their concerns are not being addressed and that the environmental reviews appear to lack standards.

A discussion followed to determine how KEAF should proceed. There have been 2 motions, the original to KEAF from EITP for a checklist to ensure all environmental concerns have been considered for the solar projects. The second is the motion passed by council as a result of Mr. Gerretsen's request. CCWG will continue to refine the checklist and prepare a final document for EITP through the work of Ian Dubin, Brian Kaye and Peter Herbert.

4). City of Kingston Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (2006-2009)

The December 2011 EITP meeting approved the following motion

THAT the City of Kingston Community Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory Report for 2006 to 2009 be accepted; and

THAT the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF) be requested to examine the inventory and its associated recommendations and develop a Local Action Plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and

THAT KEAF recommend a Local Action Plan back to the Environment Infrastructure

and

Transportation Polices Committee by September 2012; and THAT staff continue to undertake annual updates to the Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.

A Draft Proposal for Consultation and Local Action Plan prepared in 2009 was handed out. It is the result of work done by the previous KEAF Partners in Climate Change group and lays out a reasonably good framework for the task ahead.

Paul MacLatchy asked CCWG to formulate a Local Action Plan based on a document distributed earlier and consider what resources are needed to implement it, what analysis of the data is required, what GHG reductions are most likely and whether the original target should be re-examined.

Funds are available to hire a contractor to prepare the report .

Discussion concerned who in the community is likely to take action. CCWG should identify incentives. The report is particularly weak in identifying what the ICI sector is doing to reduce GHG. Partners from Sustainability Kingston may be available to help.

CCWG members were encouraged to read the Draft Proposal for Consultation and determine how to fit it with the new report in setting up the LAP prior to the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by Janis Grant