



**KINGSTON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY FORUM
MEETING NO. 03-2012
MINUTES**

Monday February 13th, 2012

**6:30 p.m., Wilson Room, Kingston Frontenac Public Library
130 Johnson Street**

PRESENT

Mr. Dubin; Co-Chair
Councillor Berg
Councillor Downes (arrived 7:20)
Councillor Neill
Mr. Ball
Mr. Carnegie
Mr. Carpenter
Ms. Farrar
Mr. Foster
Mr. Kaye (arrived 6:45)
Mr. Matovic
Mr. McCauley
Ms. Muirhead
Ms. Nobrega (arrived 6:45)
Ms. Paquin

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jim English, Pollution Prevention
Specialist
Mr. James Thompson, Committee
Clerk
Mr. Brodie Richmond, Environmental
Engineer/Geoscientist
Ms. Deanna Green, Manager, Traffic
Division

OTHERS PRESENT

Three members of the public

THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM REPORT

MEETING TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were none.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Neill
Seconded by Councillor Berg

THAT the agenda be amended to include a discussion regarding Sustainable Kingston membership under Other Business, and as amended, be approved.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Mr. McCauley

THAT the Minutes of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum Meeting No. 02-2012 held January 23rd, 2012 be confirmed.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

There were none.

BRIEFINGS

Ms. Green conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding issues relating to traffic in the City of Kingston. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the original set of minutes located in the Clerk's Department.

Ms. Nobrega and Mr. Kaye arrived at the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Green stated that speed humps are very effective traffic calming measure. She noted that speed humps are also inexpensive to construct.

Mr. Dubin indicated that the Committee is concerned about carbon emissions and stated that staff should strive to improve traffic flow in order to eliminate vehicles constantly starting and stopping. Ms. Green stated that the coordination of traffic lights should be perfect on main arterial roads and utilized Brock Street and Johnson Street as an example. She commented that the City of Kingston will be upgrading traffic light equipment in some areas.

Ms. Green mentioned that staff is investigating the feasibility of a roundabout at the intersection of Highway 2 and Highway 15. She noted that pedestrians lose their right of way at a roundabout.

Councillor Neill was of the opinion that speed humps often displace the traffic problem to a different street. He commented that many residents are not supportive of speed humps as a method of traffic calming. He stated that a four way stop creates carbon emissions and noted that miniature roundabouts are very effective. He commented that narrowing a street is also effective at reducing vehicle speeds.

Mr. Carpenter suggested that the speed limit be reduced to 20 km in some areas of the City of Kingston.

Mr. Matovic questioned if intersections can be equipped with sensors and lights to accommodate cyclists. Ms. Green spoke to the automatic scope camera which picks up a bicycle stopped at a traffic light.

Mr. Dubin commented that he is pleased to hear that the traffic lights on main arterial roads will be synchronized. He questioned if staff is looking at improving the flow of traffic in the area nearby the K-Rock Centre. Ms. Green replied that the area nearby the K-Rock Centre will be reviewed. Mr. Foster stated that traffic lights should not be independent of the other lights. He commented that the traffic light system should be based on the principles of fluid mechanics. Ms. Green noted that some of the traffic lights in the downtown are interconnected.

Ms. Farrar commented that more seniors should be riding bicycles in the City of Kingston. Mr. Carpenter stated that it is dangerous to be a cyclist in the City of Kingston. Councillor Neill commented that designated cycle lanes lead to safety issues.

BUSINESS

Councillor Downes arrived at the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

a) Update regarding Working Groups

i. Green Spaces & Waterways Working Group

Mr. McCauley spoke to the Green Spaces and Waterways Working Group meeting notes.

Mr. McCauley stated that at the last meeting of the Green Spaces and Waterways Working Group the primary focus was discussing potential academic research projects. He elaborated that consideration was given to the following topics; an inventory of all green spaces and waterways within urban Kingston, vegetation management, identification of best practices associated with tree planting and vegetations management in green spaces, adjacent to waterways and on private/commercial lands and the potential for green roofs within the City of Kingston.

Mr. Foster emphasized that the mandates of the Green Spaces and Waterways Working Group and Climate Change Working Group overlap on some issues.

Councillor Berg mentioned that there is considerable GIS data available which would pertain directly to the aforementioned studies.

Mr. Matovic noted that runoff is another issue that should be examined.

Ms. Muirhead suggested that the Committee determine if either the City of Kingston or Queen's University have already investigated aspects of the proposed academic research projects.

Councillor Neill mentioned that urban re-forestation is beginning to take place in the City of Kingston. Ms. Paquin questioned if some elements of the Urban Forest Master Plan are still under consideration. Councillor Neill replied that additional investigation regarding native trees and invasive species are still ongoing. Councillor Berg commented that the City of Kingston may begin to give consideration to planting species that traditionally grow in southern climates.

Mr. Richmond and Councillor Neill withdrew from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded Mr. Foster

THAT the Green Spaces & Waterways Working Group notes be received.

CARRIED

ii. Land Use and Rejuvenation Working Group

Ms. Muirhead Spoke to the proposed brownfields gathering.

Moved by Ms. Muirhead
Seconded by Mr. McCauley

WHEREAS the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum is an advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS the KEAF mandate indicates that the Committee may educate the public on matters deemed suitable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee recommend to Council that KEAF be authorized to host a Brownfields Gathering on April 21st, 2012 from 10 am to 12 noon in the Wilson Room of the Kingston Frontenac Public Library.

CARRIED

Moved by Mr. Carpenter
Seconded Ms. Farrar

THAT the Land Use and Rejuvenation Working Group notes be received.

CARRIED

iii. Climate Change Working Group

Mr. Ball spoke to the Climate Change Working Group meeting notes.

Mr. Carpenter sought further explanation regarding Council's expectations of the Climate Change Report. Councillor Berg replied that Council is seeking information regarding climate change and its impacts on infrastructure. She commented that this research project will likely be ongoing. Mr. Carpenter stated that at this juncture in time climate change is considered a fact. He commented that the Report could speak to resources provided by the federal and provincial governments. He noted that the Report could also give consideration to adjusting benchmarks as what was once considered normal has likely changed. Councillor Berg stated that the approach outlined by Mr. Carpenter seems reasonable.

Mr. Ball provided an update regarding the solar power array investigation. He indicated that the Working Group is still compiling a list of environmental questions.

Councillor Berg commented that the City of Kingston is quite ahead of the curve as many communities have yet to prepare Local Action Plan. She commented that the City of Kingston must establish baselines and determine what questions should be considered moving forward.

Mr. Dubin provided members of the public with an opportunity to provide comment.

A member of the public requested that KEAF examine the solar panel array issue at a global scale. He commented that he was appreciative of the Committee's effort regarding this matter. Mr. Dubin commented that KEAF is only able to comment on the technical issues as outlined in the Committee's mandate.

Moved by Mr. Ball
Seconded Mr. Dubin

THAT the Climate Change Working Group notes be received.

CARRIED

b) Discussion regarding Research Topics

Mr. Dubin stated that the Committee must reach a decision regarding what academic projects the Committee would like to have conducted prior to seeking approval from Council.

Mr. Carpenter mentioned that the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning recently completed a term project for the City of Kingston.

Ms. Paquin stated that another approach is to speak to professors to determine if their students would be interested in basing their honors project around a KEAF project.

Mr. Dubin encouraged each working group to refine their ideas into structured proposals by the next meeting.

Mr. Carpenter commented that the projects will vary in size and scope.

Ms. Paquin informed the Committee that students traditionally select their projects for the next school year in the end of May.

Mr. Thompson reiterated that the finalized proposals will be required to be endorsed by Council.

Mr. Dubin stated that KEAF requires active representation from St. Lawrence College and Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Public Health.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Sustainable Kingston

Mr. Dubin questioned if KEAF could become a Sustainable Kingston community partner. Mr. Thompson replied that Mr. MacLatchy could speak to this matter at the next meeting.

Mr. McCauley mentioned that on March 6th, 2012 a presentation regarding the 50 Million Tree Planting Program & Emerald Ash Borer will occur at the United Church Hall on Wolfe Island.

Mr. Dubin requested that Mr. MacLatchy address the correspondence received from Ms. Schmolka at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE/DOCUMENTS

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum is scheduled to be held on Monday March 12th, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Berg
Seconded by Mr. McCauley

THAT the meeting so adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

