

**City of Port Colborne
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Engineering and Operations Centre, Committee Room
1 Killaly St West, Port Colborne

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Disclosures of Interest

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Regular Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting-March 8, 2023

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5. Staff Updates

5.1 Delegation Form

5.2 Committee Workplan

5.3 Membership

5.4 Friendship Trail Sign Update

5.5 Pollinator Garden along Friendship Trail

5.6 Update on City Rebate Programs - Environment

5.7 UFMP Update

6. Order of Business

6.1 Proposed 2023 Provincial Policy Statement

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6.2 Grist Article

7. **New Business**

8. **Adjournment**

City of Port Colborne
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Engineering and Operations Centre, Committee Room
1 Killaly St West, Port Colborne

Members Present: R. Waines
J. Hellinga
T. Doan
G. McKibbon
T. Lamb
K. Klauck

Staff Present: M. Lannan, Staff Liaison
M. Bagu, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
K. Royer, NPCA Representative

Others Present: Interested citizens.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved By Trent Doan
Seconded By Tim Lamb

That the agenda dated March 8, 2023, be accepted as circulated.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

4. Approval of Minutes

Moved By Trent Doan
Seconded By Tim Lamb

That the minutes of January 11, 2023, be accepted as written.

Carried

5. Staff Updates

Mae Lannan, Climate Change Coordinator, provided the following update:

Urban Forest Management Plan

The timeline for the By-law review was moved to be completed during task 2 of the project. This was done at the suggestion of the consultant, as the management plan and the By-law are more closely related than the inventory and the Bylaw.

While task 2 was outlined as provisional in the RFP, the By-law review remained a non-provisional item. This review is currently taking place along with the management plan.

The cash allowance for the By-law review, outlined in the RFP, was determined by City Staff based on similar projects.

The management plan is being created with key Staff members to ensure that specific functional land uses are considered.

The committee provided comments on the Criteria and Indicators activity, and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis.

Comments are provided as an attachment, and to be provided to Williams and Associates as background information for the urban forest management plan.

The committee was provided information regarding next steps for the urban forest management plan project.

The Chair asked for volunteers to form a small study group, to review information produced by the project consultants, and report back to the committee and staff.

Tim Lamb, Katherine Klauck, and George McKibbon will form the study group.

Moved By Trent Doan
Seconded By Katherine Klauck

That the considerations from 2019 Environmental Advisory Committee the Boulevard Tree and By-law review be adopted by the committee.

Carried

6. Order of Business

The subcommittee for work plan 1 will begin to meet, and follow this plan until further direction.

The committee reviewed the Niagara Climate Change Action Network (NCCAN): Niagara Climate Projections Report and provided comments on the document.

Mae Lannan, Climate Change Coordinator, will bring comments regarding variance amongst climate models back to the NCCAN.

Moved By Tim Lamb

Seconded By Ryan Waines

That the Committee, and relevant subcommittees, will proceed with the two work plans in draft form, until further direction has been given by the Clerks office.

Carried

7. New Business

Mae to circulate the NPCA Public Advisory Recruitment email to Committee Members.

Mae to circulate Trees on the Landscape information, which Kerry will provide.

8. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:47 p.m.

The next EAC meeting will be on Wednesday May 10th at 6 p.m.

Chair

Staff Liaison

Proposed 2023 Provincial Policy Statement Ten Important Policy Changes for Port Colborne

Introduction: The Province released a draft Policy Statement for comment on April 6, 2023. The comment period ends in early June. Final implementation is expected in the fall, 2023. Municipal planning decisions have to be consistent with the new Policy and revised Planning Act, when approved. Public works need to conform to official plan policy brought into conformity with the new Policy Statement. Here are ten changes in the Proposed Policy Statement that impact Port Colborne.

Uncertainties: This analysis is qualified by what we don't know. Here are three unknowns that affect how these policies are implemented.

1. Earlier Planning Act amendments remove Niagara Region's planning authority. Planning responsibilities within and between the Region and area municipalities has to be re-organized. How will Port Colborne coordinate Regional services e.g., transportation, waste water treatment and water supply, with local planning and service delivery?
2. Natural heritage policies have been removed. The natural heritage policy review continues. In the future new policy will be released. It may be very different from that which exists now. We cannot fully appreciate how the new policy will work without the new natural heritage policy.
3. Without Provincial implementation guidance updates, many new policies will be difficult, if not impossible to implement. For example, land use compatibility implementation guidance is out of date: updates are needed. Substantial changes to the natural heritage policies will require substantial new guidance.

Ten Important Policy Changes that will affect Port Colborne:

1. Generally, most changes provide greater municipal planning flexibility. Council will have more discretion in decision making and less Regional oversight. The caveat is planning decisions must be consistent with the Policy Statement.
2. One exception concerns energy conservation, air quality and climate change. Planning authorities "*shall*" plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate through a number of approaches, many of which apply to infrastructure. Further planning authorities, with Conservation Authorities, "*shall*" prepare for climate change impacts where natural hazard risks increase.
3. Settlement area density and expansion policies are less stringent and more flexible.

4. Up to three residential severances can be created on rural parcels existing at a set date. Furthermore, multi-residential developments can be considered in rural areas outside settlement areas.
5. New policies are established for mixed use in “*complete communities*” and “*areas of employment*”. The latter are supported by proposed Planning Act amendments.
6. Land use compatibility between sensitive and industrial uses will be driven by public health and safety considerations. EAC addressed these in earlier reports to Council. Updated Provincial guidance is needed to help Council address these responsibilities.
7. Employment uses are addressed in two ways: heavy industry and warehousing will be placed in designated employment areas. Designated areas of employment” will be a defined term in the Planning Act. Light industry is permitted in mixed use complete communities provided uses are appropriately separated. Standards used to separate sensitive from industrial uses will be based on public health and safety concerns.
8. Province has changed Conservation Authority legislation and policy. Notwithstanding, this Policy states clearly the Province, Conservation Authorities and planning authorities are expected to work together to address increased hazard risks associated with a warming climate. Conservation Authorities will play a continuing and important role in Port Colborne’s hazard land policy administration.
9. Environmental Advisory Committee advice provided to Council and City Departments has to be consistent with Provincial policy.
10. Watch the planning implications where legislation, permitting requirements and policy changes occur. For example, where Minister’s Zoning Orders are concerned, they are additive to population targets established in official plans.