

AGENDA

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE Council Chambers, Municipal Office Thursday, December 1, 2022 5:30 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. Attendance

Committee Members

Ms. Anne Saltel (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Joyce Timpson
Cllr. Joe Cassidy
Ms. Joanne Peacock
Mr. Bruce Van Horne

Staff

Mr. Jody Brinkman, Manager of Development Services,
Staff Resource
Ms. Kristen Bartmann, Planning Coordinator, Recording
Secretary

Excused

Mr. George Hoggarth (Chair)
Ms. Jessi Jones

B. Chair to Call the Meeting to order.

C. Motion to excuse _____ from the meeting.

THAT the above mentioned members be excused from the meeting.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

2. AGENDA

a) Additions to the Agenda

b) Confirmation of Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting of December 1, 2022 be approved.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THAT the Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Environment Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

THAT the Minutes of the November 3, 2022 Environment Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Moved by:
Seconded by:

5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Landfill operations waste removal discussion (mini-report from Mr. Mat Lelonde)
- b) Ms. Kristen Bartmann to report on Committee inventory of promo items.

c) Green Team discussion.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 2022 Work Plan

Curbside Swap

- ❖ **Goals:** Continue promoting Curbside Swap
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Cllr. J. Timpson
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Municipal Website
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Biweekly (Saturday and Sundays) April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Ads and signs to encourage participation in Curbside Swap. Continue promoting Curbside Swap Facebook page and add link to Environment Committee's Facebook page.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Explore Composting Options

- ❖ **Goals:** To explore options for composting. To promote composting.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Municipal World magazine
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Research and promote municipal composting options. Promote backyard composting
- ❖ **Updates:**

Communication and Education

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with residents and educate regarding sustainable environmental practices.

- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media (Facebook), Ads
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Through a variety of media, including the Environment Committee Facebook page, educate the community regarding sustainable environmental practices of any nature.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Community Garden

- ❖ **Goals:** To establish and maintain community gardens that promote and encourage locally grown produce, food security, the reduction of carbon footprints, composting and educational opportunities.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. J. Peacock
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Municipal staff needed to help with maintenance as required.
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Maintaining the gardens, advertising, gardening classes.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Municipal Projects Review

- ❖ **Goals:** To review municipal projects that may have an environmental impact and report on their environmental effect
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** List of Capital Projects
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Review environmental impacts of capital projects
- ❖ **Updates:**

Environmental Recognition

- ❖ **Goals:** Recognize groups or individuals for their environmentally sustainable activities/initiatives
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. A. Saltel
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Recognizing groups or individuals on Social Media and distributing certificates.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Emergency

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about effective strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change including the impact of the environment on people's health
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Policies
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Promotion of Locally Sourced Food and Self-Sustainability

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about access to sustainably sourced food
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Workspaces

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information and education through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality. Promoting different gardening options (examples: raised gardens and containers). Provide support to local gardeners by providing a platform for knowledge exchange. Promote sustainably sourced food. Through education and promotion at the farmer's markets, increase awareness about sustainably sourced foods. Advertise and encourage people to share their produce through activities such as gleaning. To approach other Northern Communities for ideas related to locally sourced food.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Waste Reduction/Diversion

- ❖ **Goals:** To reduce and divert waste
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Introduce policies, practices, and by-laws to eliminate single use plastics. Advertise Waste Reduction Week. Promote reduction of litter around town. Encourage the enforcement of the existing littering By-law. Educate people on hazardous waste and how to dispose of it. To encourage households and commercial businesses to reduce the amount of recyclables thrown out with garbage
- ❖ **Updates:**

Promoting the Establishment of Natural Ecosystems

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote the use of and benefits of mow free zones. To increase mow free zones in the community on municipal properties. To encourage pollinator friendly residential yards. Create a pollinator friendly community. To support native ecosystems.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Staff
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing

- ❖ **Task:** With the assistance of the Staff Resource, discuss potential mow free and pollinator friendly areas with the Recreation and Culture Manager for municipally owned property. To communicate with and educate residents on the benefits of mow free zones. Inform the Community of the benefits of pollinator friendly yards, and promote the growth of native species.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Eco Friendly Transportation

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote different means of eco-friendly transportation
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Social media, attend trade shows, Internet
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Research different means of eco-friendly transportation and promote them to the Community. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:**

7.2 Committee Budget Discussion

7.3 Committee Term Review and Future Directions

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Council to appoint new Committee members at December 7, 2022 Special Council Meeting.
- b) Committee work plan due at February Council Meeting; consider starting discussion during January Environment Committee Meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for 5:30p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2022 at Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at _____.

MINUTES

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICE Thursday, October 6, 2022 6:00 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

A. Attendance

Committee Members

Mr. George Hoggarth, Chair
Ms. Anne Saltel, Vice Chair
Cllr. Joyce Timpson
Ms. Joanne Peacock
Ms. Jessi Jones

Staff

Mr. Jody Brinkman, Manager of Development Services, Staff Resource

Excused

Mr. Bruce Van Horne
Mr. Joe Cassidy

Absent

B. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

C. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Motion to excuse members:

Moved by: Ms. Joanna Peacock

Seconded by: Ms. Anne Saltel

CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

a) Additions to Agenda

- i) Survey to determine time for starting meetings
- ii) Ms. J. Peacock suggested adding budget as a standing item to Committee Agendas.

b) Confirmation of Agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting of November 3, 2022 be adopted, as amended.

Moved by: Ms. Anne Saltel

Seconded by: Ms. Joyce Timpson

CARRIED

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion to Adopt Minutes.

The Motion to adopt the Minutes of the September 8, 2022 Environment Committee

Moved by: Joanne Peacock

Seconded by: Joyce Timpson

5. DELEGATIONS

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- i. Lighting being left on all night is mostly due to a Building Code requirement for “night lights” and for general safety reasons.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 2022 Work Plan

The Committee discussed the 2022 Work Plan:

2022 Work Plan

Curbside Swap

- ❖ **Goals:** Continue promoting Curbside Swap
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Cllr. J. Timpson
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Municipal Website
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Biweekly (Saturday and Sundays) April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Ads and signs to encourage participation in Curbside Swap. Continue promoting Curbside Swap Facebook page and add link to Environment Committee’s Facebook page.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed that one last Committee sanctioned curbside swap will take place for 2022.

Explore Composting Options

- ❖ **Goals:** To explore options for composting. To promote composting.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Municipal World magazine

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Research and promote municipal composting options. Promote backyard composting. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:** Current Public Manager recently resigned, the Municipality is actively looking to fill the position. A meeting can be set up with the new manager to discuss potential composting options.

Communication and Education

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with residents and educate regarding sustainable environmental practices.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media (Facebook), Ads
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- ❖ **Tasks:** Through a variety of media, including the Environment Committee Facebook page, educate the community regarding sustainable environmental practices of any nature.
- ❖ **Updates:**

Community Garden

- ❖ **Goals:** To establish and maintain community gardens that promote and encourage locally grown produce, food security, the reduction of carbon footprints, composting and educational opportunities.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. J. Peacock
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Municipal staff needed to help with maintenance as required.

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Maintaining the gardens, advertising, gardening classes.
- ❖ **Updates:** Ms. J. Peacock has been using the good weather to do some early spring preparation in the community garden, though the garden is now closed for the season. The beds are moving/shifting and need repair or replacement. Possibly from frost movement in the ground. Fencing and gate being damaged, Municipal staff climbing over the fence and removing the gate from the hinges damaging the fence and gate. Possibly look at utilizing students from the high school carpentry class to construct new garden beds.

Municipal Projects Review

- ❖ **Goals:** To review municipal projects that may have an environmental impact and report on their environmental effect
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** List of Capital Projects
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Review environmental impacts of capital projects
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. J. Brinkman discussed the lack of contractors with the time to complete different Municipal projects. Briefly discussed new 7-unit apartment building at 124 Queen Street. Can we pass a by-law to require these developments to leave a minimum number of trees or plant trees. We do have a green space requirement for development but a grassed area is considered green space. We do have a Site Plan Control Agreement By-Law for larger developments. The procedures for the Site Plan Control will be brought to the December meeting.

Environmental Recognition

- ❖ **Goals:** Recognize groups or individuals for their environmentally sustainable activities/initiatives
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. A. Saltel
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Recognizing groups or individuals on Social Media and distributing certificates.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee recognized Theresa Doran.

Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Emergency

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about effective strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change including the impact of the environment on people's health
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Policies
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed flood mitigation and what is the Municipality doing to limit the damage during future flood events. Mr. Brinkman is not directly involved in those discussions but will look to speak to it at the December meeting.

Promotion of Locally Sourced Food and Self-Sustainability

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about access to sustainably sourced food
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Workspaces
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information and education through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality. Promoting different gardening options (examples: raised gardens and containers). Provide support to local gardeners by providing a platform for knowledge exchange. Promote sustainably sourced food. Through education and promotion at the farmer's markets, increase awareness about sustainably sourced foods. Advertise and encourage people to share their produce through activities such as gleaning. To approach other Northern Communities for ideas related to locally sourced food.
- ❖ **Updates:** Some discussion on the lack of vendors at the Farmers Markets during the summer. In part due to cost to partake in the event and the ability to sell products online versus in person. Vendors from surrounding communities can sell products in their home communities without the need to come to Sioux Lookout.

Waste Reduction/Diversion

- ❖ **Goals:** To reduce and divert waste
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Introduce policies, practices, and by-laws to eliminate single use plastics. Advertise Waste Reduction Week. Promote reduction of litter around town. Encourage the enforcement of the existing littering By-law. Educate people on hazardous waste and how to dispose of it. To encourage households and commercial businesses to reduce the amount of recyclables thrown out with garbage

- ❖ **Updates:** Tim Horton's has put out several garbage cans and have staff picking up litter around the store. Discussed the Municipal garbage cans around town and the frequency the cans are emptied. Certain garbage cans are regularly overflowing with litter around the can on the ground. The garbage can is emptied but Municipal staff do not clean up the litter around the garbage can. Look at setting up a meeting with the Manager of Parks and Recreation to discuss the garbage can and litter situation, suggest that staff be more proactive in picking up litter. In particular around garbage cans when they empty them. Look at developing a stronger by-law to better limit littering and have fines for littering. We currently have a Littering By-Law but the person committing the act needs to be caught while littering in order to be charged. Possibly change elements of the By-Law to make it easier to enforce without the need for an eye witness account. Utilize garbage cans that are highly visible, install more garbage cans and ask that Municipal Staff be directed to clean up litter if they come across it. Look at Green Team opportunities with Tim Hortons which would be a group that would pick up litter around town.

Promoting the Establishment of Natural Ecosystems

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote the use of and benefits of mow free zones. To increase mow free zones in the community on municipal properties. To encourage pollinator friendly residential yards. Create a pollinator friendly community. To support native ecosystems.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Staff
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** With the assistance of the Staff Resource, discuss potential mow free and pollinator friendly areas with the Recreation and Culture Manager for municipally owned property. To communicate with and educate residents on the benefits of mow free zones. Inform the Community of the benefits of pollinator friendly yards, and promote the growth of native species.
- ❖ **Updates:** None.

Eco Friendly Transportation

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote different means of eco-friendly transportation
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Social media, attend trade shows, Internet
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Research different means of eco-friendly transportation and promote them to the Community. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:** Electric bikes seen around town, are there laws regarding helmets and other safety gear for these types of vehicles. Not sure if or when safety regulations are enforced for these vehicles. People should be more patient when encountering electric scooters and/or bikes. A google search was done looking at restrictions or regulations for these vehicles. Some are in place. Nuclear power proponents state that the increase in electric powered vehicles will exceed the current capacity of the power grids in Canada. Based on news reports this is indeed the case. How can the Committee respond these proponents who state that nuclear power and fossil fuel power is required to cover the electrical needs resulting from charging electric vehicles. Does the Committee have the expertise to do so, members of the Committee can complete further research on this item. Then discuss next steps at a future meeting, consider new green technologies that can produce power.

7.2 Committee Budget

Defer until next meeting

7.3 Committee Term Review and Future Direction

What more could the Committee do, is the Committee just spinning their wheels. Take a stronger stance with Council. Joyce would like Council to direct the Committee, discussions regarding this suggest that the Committee is in the best position to determine make this determination. We then can make requests of Council to implement these green initiative. We need a list of capital projects or by-laws before they are under taken which have an environmental impact. Then the Committee can provide comment on particular items. Review webinar provided by Anne Saltel. Defer remainder of converstion

7.4 Circular Economy Month

Stems from waste management month, Anne put some information on the facebook page, Anne will continue to do so. Attempts have been made to ban single use bags in the Municipality. Government was starting the process/plan for a circular economy. A staged approach, certain materials/items that can no longer be sent to a land fill. It seems that it's actually more about providing information rather than actual laws restricting what can go into a land fill.

7.5 Meeting Start Time

Meeting start time to be 5:30 moving forward

7.6 Committee budget as a standing Agenda item

To be a standing item.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November, 2022 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

MINUTES

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIOUX LOOKOUT

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICE Thursday, November 3, 2022 5:30 P.M.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/CHAIR'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

A. Attendance

Committee Members

Mr. George Hoggarth, Chair
Ms. Anne Saltel, Vice Chair
Cllr. Joyce Timpson
Cllr. Joe Cassidy
Ms. Joanne Peacock
Ms. Jessi Jones

Staff

Mr. Jody Brinkman, Manager of Development Services, Staff Resource
Ms. Kristen Bartmann, Planning Coordinator, Recording Secretary
Mr. Rony Chakraborty, Recreation and Culture Department Manager

Excused

Mr. Bruce Van Horne

Absent

B. The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

C. MEMBERS EXCUSED

Motion to excuse members:

Moved by: Ms. Jessi Jones

Seconded by: Ms. Joanne Peacock

CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

a) Additions to Agenda

- i) Ms. J. Peacock had a member of the public inquire with her about the status of the oil spill due to the springtime flooding that happened near Knobby's and Mascotto's earlier this year. Mr. J. Brinkman noted that the spill happened on private property and both the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry had been involved. The Committee asked Mr. J. Brinkman to reach out to his contacts at those agencies to find out if the spill was resolved.
- ii) Ms. J. Peacock suggested adding a standing item to Committee Agendas regarding items that are discussed and need to be followed up with at a later date. Discussion was had about what to name such a section; the Committee decided on adding 'Section 7.4 – Action Reminders' to all future Committee Agendas.

b) Confirmation of Agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda

THAT the Agenda for the Environment Committee Meeting of November 3, 2022 be adopted, as amended.

Moved by: Ms. Jessi Jones

Seconded by: Ms. Joanne Peacock

CARRIED

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion to Adopt Minutes.

The Motion to adopt the Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Environment Committee Meeting was deferred to the December 2022 Environment Committee meeting.

5. DELEGATIONS

- a) Mr. G. Hoggarth explained to Mr. R. Chakraborty, Recreation and Culture Department Manager, that the invite to this Committee meeting stemmed from Committee discussions about how to improve the look of the Town, specifically regarding litter. Mr. R. Chakraborty explained that the procedure for garbage can emptying/litter cleanup is as follows: staff have supplies such as needle disposal kits, and that every morning from 6am to 9am staff check all public garbage cans from Hudson to urban Sioux Lookout and empty them as needed. He noted that there are 48 regular garbage cans and 14 in ground garbage cans throughout the municipality. There is no exact schedule for what areas are done first so as to provide flexibility for staff based on need and staffing levels. Mr. R. Chakraborty noted that the Recreation and Culture Department is understaffed, which leads to the existing staff having to accomplish many varied tasks; despite this, when complaints about garbage cans or other items come in they are rectified within a half hour. Mr. R. Chakraborty said that staff are directed to deal with the garbage cans themselves as well as to clean up any litter around the cans. One issue the Recreation and Culture Department staff have noticed is an uptick in household garbage placed in public garbage cans, which is not permitted but is difficult to enforce. The Committee discussed whether education would help reduce littering, but it was noted that behaviours are difficult to change even with education or additional supplies like garbage cans. Mr. R. Chakraborty also noted that sometimes jurisdiction is a challenge, as there can be litter on private property, municipal property, or in areas under provincial jurisdiction – but residents are not always aware of the different jurisdictions. Ms. J. Peacock asked how we could encourage property owners to clean up litter on their properties. Mr. J. Brinkman noted that the Property Standards By-law is in place, with enforcement generally working on a complaint driven basis. The Committee asked if Mr. R. Chakraborty could look at moving existing garbage cans so as to be more efficiently located around town. Ms. J. Jones offered to research how other small towns have successfully reduced littering and bring that information back to the Committee. Cllr. J. Timpson noted that if changing individual behavior is difficult that perhaps the Committee should focus on better cleanup efforts, such as partnering with Tim Hortons in a 'Green Team' as discussed at previous meetings. Mr. G. Hoggarth agreed, and suggested inviting potential members to a meeting to discuss exactly what the team would entail. The Committee agreed with this plan of action and to add the Green Team as an action under "Waste Reduction". The Committee agreed to purchase 5 grabbers for the Green Team using money from this year's budget. Some discussion was had about cigarette butt litter. Mr. G. Hoggarth asked Mr. R. Chakraborty if the staff cleanup schedule could be modified for special events so that the area where the event was held would be looked after first. Mr. R. Chakraborty said depending on staffing levels

this could be looked at. The Committee thanked Mr. R. Chakraborty for attending the meeting and discussing the challenges related to litter, along with what is being done to address those challenges.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 2022 Work Plan

The Committee discussed the 2022 Work Plan:

2022 Work Plan

Curbside Swap

- ❖ **Goals:** Continue promoting Curbside Swap
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Cllr. J. Timpson
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Municipal Website
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Biweekly (Saturday and Sundays) April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Ads and signs to encourage participation in Curbside Swap. Continue promoting Curbside Swap Facebook page and add link to Environment Committee's Facebook page.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed how the mild fall weather has meant people are still swapping informally. Discussion was had about whether there should be promotion on certain weekends; most of the Committee feels that the swapping is self-sustaining and so additional promotion is not needed, but members are always welcome to promote special weekends if they want.

Explore Composting Options

- ❖ **Goals:** To explore options for composting. To promote composting.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Municipal World magazine
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Research and promote municipal composting options. Promote backyard composting. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. J. Brinkman noted that he has added the Foodcycler project to his capital projects budget for the 2023 fiscal year. The Committee discussed what course of action to take if this or other initiatives are not supported by the new Council. Mr. G. Hoggarth noted that especially for the Foodcycler project the Committee should stress the economic upsides of diverting waste from the landfill versus the small upfront investment.

Communication and Education

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with residents and educate regarding sustainable environmental practices.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media (Facebook), Ads
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Through a variety of media, including the Environment Committee Facebook page, educate the community regarding sustainable environmental practices of any nature.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed the Committee Facebook page and that the new Council should be reminded that there is such a site, and that the engagement on the site is steady. A

discussion was had about how to get more non-Committee members posting on the page; it was noted that part of the challenge is that it seems that many people simply do not post to Facebook as much anymore in general. The page can be there for those who want information, and any activity is a bonus. Ms. J. Jones suggested posting more updates after Committee meetings along with Agendas and Minutes, as sometimes residents do not know whom to ask about environment related activities despite being interested.

Community Garden

- ❖ **Goals:** To establish and maintain community gardens that promote and encourage locally grown produce, food security, the reduction of carbon footprints, composting and educational opportunities.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. J. Peacock
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Municipal staff needed to help with maintenance as required.
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** April through October
- ❖ **Tasks:** Maintaining the gardens, advertising, gardening classes.
- ❖ **Updates:** Ms. J. Peacock has been using the good weather to do some early spring preparation in the community garden, though the garden is now closed for the season. Ms. J. Peacock was reviewing the space and thinks it might be possible to add 4 new garden beds to the garden, and the Committee supports this. The Committee agreed to allocate 2022 budget monies to purchasing new wood; Ms. J. Peacock will measure the existing beds to determine how much wood is needed and send that information to Mr. J. Brinkman to price out.

Municipal Projects Review

- ❖ **Goals:** To review municipal projects that may have an environmental impact and report on their environmental effect
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** List of Capital Projects

- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Review environmental impacts of capital projects
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. J. Brinkman discussed the list of capital projects being finalized for the 2023 budget and outlined them for the Committee. The Committee asked some questions about the Bigwood project and the Curtis booster station as well as the Hillcrest property. Ms. A. Saltel also noted an issue with noise in the recreation centre; Mr. J. Brinkman said staff is looking into installing acoustic panels to help reduce the noise.

Environmental Recognition

- ❖ **Goals:** Recognize groups or individuals for their environmentally sustainable activities/initiatives
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Ms. A. Saltel
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Recognizing groups or individuals on Social Media and distributing certificates.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed the most recent recognition write up about Theresa Doran. The Committee discussed challenges in determining whom to recognize; Mr. G. Hoggarth suggested keeping Environmental Recognition as a standing item so that when the opportunity arises to recognize someone it is easy to do so.

Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Emergency

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about effective strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change including the impact of the environment on people's health
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Policies
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality.
- ❖ **Updates:** The Committee discussed Northwestern Ontario resident Clifford Mushquash attending COP27 in Egypt as a First Nations representative. The Committee decided to reach out to him to see if he would report on the conference to the Committee.

Promotion of Locally Sourced Food and Self-Sustainability

- ❖ **Goals:** To communicate with and educate residents about access to sustainably sourced food
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media, Workspaces
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Tasks:** Present information and education through a variety of media and act in an advisory capacity to the Municipality. Promoting different gardening options (examples: raised gardens and containers). Provide support to local gardeners by providing a platform for knowledge exchange. Promote sustainably sourced food. Through education and promotion at the farmer's markets, increase awareness about sustainably sourced foods. Advertise and encourage people to share their produce through activities such as gleaning. To approach other Northern Communities for ideas related to locally sourced food.
- ❖ **Updates:** None.

Waste Reduction/Diversion

- ❖ **Goals:** To reduce and divert waste
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee

- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Internet, Social Media
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Introduce policies, practices, and by-laws to eliminate single use plastics. Advertise Waste Reduction Week. Promote reduction of litter around town. Encourage the enforcement of the existing littering By-law. Educate people on hazardous waste and how to dispose of it. To encourage households and commercial businesses to reduce the amount of recyclables thrown out with garbage
- ❖ **Updates:** Foodcycler program added to Development Services capital projects work plan in the 2023 budget; the Manager of Development Services will report to the Committee on Council's response.

Promoting the Establishment of Natural Ecosystems

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote the use of and benefits of mow free zones. To increase mow free zones in the community on municipal properties. To encourage pollinator friendly residential yards. Create a pollinator friendly community. To support native ecosystems.
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Staff
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** With the assistance of the Staff Resource, discuss potential mow free and pollinator friendly areas with the Recreation and Culture Manager for municipally owned property. To communicate with and educate residents on the benefits of mow free zones. Inform the Community of the benefits of pollinator friendly yards, and promote the growth of native species.
- ❖ **Updates:** None.

Eco Friendly Transportation

- ❖ **Goals:** To promote different means of eco-friendly transportation
- ❖ **Lead Person:** Environment Committee
- ❖ **Resources Needs:** Social media, attend trade shows, Internet
- ❖ **Date Due or Frequency:** Ongoing
- ❖ **Task:** Research different means of eco-friendly transportation and promote them to the Community. To act in an advisory capacity to the municipality to ensure infrastructure and initiatives supporting eco-friendly transportation are being considered.
- ❖ **Updates:** Mr. G. Hoggarth praised the new bike lane that is part of the newly constructed roundabout on Wellington St.

7.2 Committee Budget

The Committee approved purchasing the following items using the remaining monies in the 2022 budget:

- ❖ Five (5) grabbers for use by the Green Team
- ❖ Wood for new beds in the community garden

Motion to Approve Purchases using 2022 Budget Monies

THAT the Environment Committee approves the purchase of wood necessary to upgrade the community garden beds and five (5) grabber reacher tools.

Moved by: Ms. J. Jones

Seconded by: Ms. J. Peacock

CARRIED

7.3 Committee Term Review and Future Directions

Cllr. J. Timpson initiated a discussion to review the Committee's activity this term and to discuss future directions for the Committee. Ms. A. Saltel noted that she feels that sometimes the Committee is not as productive as it could be. Ms. J. Jones said she would like to see the Committee be more involved with what Council is doing. The Committee debated about how to keep the Committee and its activity in the minds of Council; Cllr. J. Timpson suggested additional official reports from the Committee to Council. Cllr. J. Cassidy noted that the councillor members of the Committee do a high level overview of their activities at each Council meeting; the Committee generally agreed that this is sufficient unless there is a specific ask of Council from the Committee. In that case a report to Council is warranted. Discussion was also had about higher level environmental issues and how to address those. Several Committee members noted that the Committee can only work at the local level, and Council itself has the most impact at the local municipal level. Mr. G. Hoggarth stated that items can always be discussed by the Committee, but sometimes jurisdictional challenges get in the way of actual activity on those big ticket items.

Mr. G. Hoggarth noted that the Committee had previously brought up concerns with usable items (such as bicycles) going to the town landfill, and once brought there they cannot legally be removed. He proposed revisiting this item. Ms. A. Saltel agreed with revisiting this to confirm what the legislation specifically allows and disallows. Ms. K. Bartmann will ask Mr. M. Lelonde, Public Works Operations Manager, to attend the December Committee meeting to discuss.

Cllr. J. Cassidy expressed a desire to see measurable ways to gauge success with Committee initiatives, as being able to point to quantifiable results is useful for the community and Council. Ms. J. Jones noted that the proposed Foodcycler program is a quantified, measurable project, as measuring outcomes is part of the program that the company helps with. Ms. J. Jones proposed that for the Green Team project, Committee members should think about what measurable outcomes should be attained. Cllr. J. Cassidy agreed and suggested hours spent doing cleanup, pounds of garbage collected, and that information could be collected over time.

Ms. A. Saltel said that she would like to see more guests invited to Committee meetings to discuss ideas and help Committee members understand the challenges related to certain initiatives and ideas.

7.4 Action Reminders

- ❖ Ms. J. Jones to research successful litter reduction strategies in other small towns.
- ❖ Invite Mr. M. Lelonde to next meeting for discussion about the landfill and diverting usable items from landfill; specifically, legislation that permits or disallows removing items.

- ❖ Discuss with Mr. R. Chakraborty, Recreation and Culture Department Manager the town planters and reusing organic materials from them.
- ❖ Contact Mr. Clifford Mushquash regarding COP27 and ask if he would report on the conference to the Committee.
- ❖ Ms. K. Bartmann to inventory any remaining promotional items and report back to the Committee.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.