

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston; Works Superintendent Adam Prouse; David Schell (community representative); George Klosler (community representative); and Cathy Reeves (community representative)

Regrets: Chair Jim Pickard

Staff: Clerk Julie Middleton; and Facilities Maintenance Technician Darryl Nutt

Call to Order

Mayor David Mayberry called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Adam Prouse
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the February 5th, 2025 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Works Superintendent Adam Prouse introduced Facilities Maintenance Technician Darryl Nutt to the Committee.

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Cathy Reeves
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the minutes of the January 8th, 2025 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Electrical Audit Update (Adam)

* *George Klosler arrived at 4:35 p.m.*

Brownsville Hall Energy Audit/Usage Report

Staff provided the monthly data from 2021 to 2024 for the Committee to review. It was noted that we are still waiting on the natural gas bill from December, 2024.

Adam provided the Committee with two quotes for adding insulation to the Dereham Centre Hall. The first quote is for \$52,925.00 plus HST for adding new walls and insulation. The second quote is for \$3,450.00 plus HST for adding R 60 insulation to the attic. The Committee discussed the proposed work.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend to Council that \$3,500 be allocated from the Climate Change Reserve for adding insulation to the attic of the Dereham Centre Hall.

Julie will advise the President of the Dereham Centre Hall Board, Carol Van Moerkerke, of the Committee's recommendation and investigate available funding options for this project. Further, Julie will circulate the following link to the Committee:

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Discussion Items

Breakfast with the Boards - Theme/Speaker?

Staff requested theme/speaker suggestions for the upcoming Breakfast with the Boards event on Saturday, April 12th, 2025 at the Salford Community Centre. Possible speakers/topics discussed include:

- Glen Pearson re: importance of volunteerism (previous speaker at event)
- Capturing food waste, agricultural adaptation – Julie will email George regarding this
- Wind projects
- Changes to garbage/organics/recycling collection coming in 2026

Tree Planting Opportunities - Partnership with Conservation Authorities? (Council Strategic Planning item)

Public works will plant 100 trees this year in 2025 – Julie will send information regarding this to the hall and park committees. Should they want trees, Adam will arrange and plant them through the Township's roadside program. Discussion took place regarding the tree planting program in Zorra Township – the Township may want to consider this in the future.

Planting wildflowers along ditches to reduce erosion and provide more wildlife habitat. The Engage and Inform Committee will give out free pollinator garden seeds again on 2025 on Earth Day. Staff will look into working with Long Point Conservation regarding wildflower planting projects.

Correspondence

Water Capacity Buy Back Program Flyer – Oxford County

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Oxford County regarding their water capacity buy-back program. Adam will look into what the cost would be to install a rainwater reclamation system for washing trucks – this would help reduce the water consumption by public works.

2024 Annual Fuel Usage Report - For Information

The Committee reviewed the fuel usage report provided by Public Works. The Committee discussed the use of biodiesel blend. Adam will follow up with the Township's fuel supplier to obtain more information.

The use of compressed natural gas was also discussed. The Township will be purchasing a new truck in 2026 and could look at this as an option. Adam will follow up with Epcor to see what options are available in the area.

New Business

Grant Request from the Salford Hall Board

The Committee received and reviewed the request received from the Salford Hall Board. The Board built an extension to the building which was never insulated. They have insulated it and covered the walls to finish and improve the space for storage. They have requested a \$1,000 grant from the Committee for the project.

Resolution No. 4 Moved by Valerie Durston
Seconded by David Schell

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee approve the purchase of insulation and drywall to be installed at the Salford Community Centre (storage room) and that this purchase be funded from the Committee's allocated grant funding for 2025 (for the Salford Hall Board).

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

From February, 2024 Minutes - Brainstorming/Round Table Discussion – to be updated and added to next meeting agenda for further discussion:

- Electrical audit is currently being done at the Public Works shop.
- Fans have been discussed in the past for the shop; however, they are expensive.
- Air source heat pumps may be considered in other facilities – Mount Elgin Hall and Municipal Office.
- Continuing to look at electric options for Township fleet – options are still limited for large vehicles and very expensive.
- Encourage the purchase and use of electric school buses locally.
- LED lighting is saving energy. Follow up with Tim Smith after the audit and consider replacing all lights with LED in all Township facilities.

- Do we have a month-to-month comparison for Mount Elgin Hall (hydro and heat?). Compare this January to January, 2023.
- No waste at the parks – City of Waterloo (puppy poop power) – share the link on the next agenda.
- Dill pickle juice instead of salt on sidewalks for ice removal. The Township and County have experimented with beet juice before. The Township doesn't use any liquid at all on roads. Township is still using sand mix – not planning to change at this time.
- Province is amending the endangered species act again.
- Cathy will share link to funding opportunity through Wellington County.
- Tree planting for wetland buffers and to prevent soil loss, and expand native grasses, tree cover.
- Soil erosion prevention, many farms have taken out fence rows – encourage farmers to put them back in.
- Climate change – storms are going to become more severe, more flooding, infrastructure protection – will also result in further soil erosion. Road culverts – consider making them larger – need to ensure that water has somewhere to go.
- Consider review and update of Township servicing standards to account for more precipitation.
- Red wiggler worms – Fort Nelson project. The worms eat paper and cardboard and converted it to a compost material that is sold. Howard will look into whether we would be willing to give us a virtual presentation.
- New net zero municipal office with child care – solar panels on roof of office and green roof on child care/community garden/greenhouse.
- Education and awareness – changing weather patterns and more extreme weather – topic for general communication from the Township (Emergency Preparedness Week, 2024).
- Organic waste collection – County will be looking at this and considering this going into 2025. A report is scheduled to come forward to County Council in April, 2024.
- Flood risk forecasting model – David will follow up with UTRCA. Adam advised that the Township continues to work with UTRCA and Long Point for municipal drain projects and any time that the Township upgrade a culvert

Adjournment

Resolution No. 5 Moved by George Klosler
 Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:40 p.m. to meet again on March 4th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried