

# Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee Report

4th Meeting of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory  
Committee  
March 6, 2024

Attendance                      B. Samuels (Chair), B. Amendola, R. Duvernoy, I. ElGhamrawy,  
A. Ford, M. Griffith, A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, C. Hunsberger, A.  
Pert, N. Serour and H. Lysynski (Clerk)

ABSENT: C. Mettler and L. Vuong

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor J. Pribil; M. Fabro, W. Jeffery, S.  
Rowland, J. Stanford, M. Szarka and P. Yeoman

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM; it being noted that  
B. Amendola, R. Duvernoy, I. ElGhamrawy, A. Ford, M. Griffith,  
A. Hames, M.A. Hodge, C. Hunsberger, A. Pert and N. Serour  
were in remote attendance.

**1. Call to Order**

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

**2. Scheduled Items**

None.

**3. Consent**

3.1 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community  
Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 3rd Report of the Environmental Stewardship  
and Action Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on  
February 7, 2024, was received.

**4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups**

4.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group update

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action  
Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to the next  
steps for developing climate focused communications related to the  
Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Working Group proposed actions;  
it being noted that the CEAP Working Group will contact Corporate  
Communications for assistance.

**5. Items for Discussion**

5.1 Printing Yard Signs for Naturalization

That the expenditure of \$1,000 from the 2024 Environmental Stewardship  
and Action Community Advisory Committee Budget BE ALLOCATED to  
printing the attached yard signs for naturalized lawns.

5.2 Earth Fest – Saturday, April 20, 2024

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to Earth Fest; it being noted that the Civic Administration will review the possibility of having onsite representation to address naturalization and to respond to the community's questions.

5.3 Tree Protection By-law

That the following actions be taken with respect to the City of London Tree Protection By-law:

- a) the Civic Administration BE ASKED to review opportunities to enforce the Tree By-law within the *Provincial Offenses Act* window of enforcement; and,
- b) this matter BE INCLUDED on the Civic Works Deferred List.

**6. Additional Business**

6.1 Future Agenda Items

That the Committee Clerk BE REQUESTED to add the following matters to future Agendas:

- a) the Tree Protection By-law related to aerial mapping; and,
- b) Neighbourhood Decision Making Grants related to climate related projects; it being noted that a Sub-Committee consisting of B. Samuels, A. Hames and M.A. Hodge was created to discuss these matters.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Proposal: Printing signs for naturalized yards  
February 27, 2024

Background:

In August 2023, ESACAC submitted recommendations for the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law to be reviewed for clarifying the rules for naturalization. Council then passed a motion requesting that staff develop public education materials to support by-law enforcement, including information for recipients of by-law orders and prospective complainants. In January 2024, ESACAC submitted recommendations for public education materials, including a new webpage and content for an information pamphlet. In February, the Community and Protective Services Committee adopted changes to the by-law in alignment with staff recommendations. The updated by-law will be voted on by Council on March 5.

A key component of the transition to greater acceptance of naturalized yards is supporting Londoners to prevent conflicts with neighbours. It is generally recommended to communicate where landscaping is intentional, to help distinguish naturalized yards from neglected ones. Installing an information sign is a simple way to communicate the functions of and desire for a naturalized yard.

To encourage more Londoners to take up naturalization projects on private land, **ESACAC proposes to use up to \$1,000 of the committee’s annual budget towards printing yard signs that can be distributed in the community at no cost to residents.** The signs could be printed on white corrugated plastic, similar to existing signs that the City distributes for residential rain garden projects (see below). It is recommended these new signs should be printed as soon as possible, ahead of the upcoming growing season.

ESACAC proposes the following language for the signs, with the web link made to align with the City’s communications about naturalization and the Yard and Lot Maintenance By-law moving forward.

## Nature lives here

This area is maintained as wildlife habitat with plants providing environmental benefits.

[London.ca/neighbourhood-greening\\*](https://london.ca/neighbourhood-greening)



Existing rain garden sign

Proposed language for new sign

\* Link to be updated to reflect City’s website with information about naturalizing yards, per ESACAC’s previous submission to regarding communications.