

Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

Report

6th Meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
August 19, 2021
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), L. Banks, A. Bilson Darko, A. Boyer, S. Esan, P. Ferguson, S. Hall, S. Heuchan, B. Krichker, B. Samuels, S. Sivakumar, R. Trudeau and I. Whiteside and H. Lysynski (Committee Clerk)

ABSENT: I. Arturo, L. Grieves, J. Khan, I. Mohamed, K. Moser and M. Wallace

ALSO PRESENT: C. Creighton, J. MacKay, B. Page, M. Pease and M. Schulthess

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 Homeowner Information Brochure

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of S. Hall, S. Heuchan, S. Levin (lead), B. Samuels and R. Trudeau, with respect to the homeowner brochure for property owners living near natural areas; it being noted that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee reviewed and received the attached presentation from B. House and J. Irving, students, with respect to this matter.

3. Consent

3.1 5th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 5th Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on June 17, 2021, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Climate Emergency Action Plan

That the following Climate Emergency Action Plan Working Group recommendations BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration:

- a) a special advisory committee should be created to actively participate in the Climate Emergency Action Plan development and implementation. The committee should consist of representation from the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan team, representatives from advisory committees including EEPAC, First Nations and politicians. The committee structure will facilitate continuous, long-term consultation with key

stakeholders and involvement of expertise available to the City through its advisory committees;

b) the impacts of climate change to the Natural Heritage System should be prioritized and considered holistically, not as an add-on to anthropocentric objectives; plans to protect and enhance the Natural Heritage System under climate change conditions should be explicitly included in the Climate Emergency Action Plan;

c) the Natural Heritage System should be fully harnessed as part of the City's approach to climate change mitigation, such as the sequestration of carbon by existing green spaces including wetlands, prairies, meadows, forests and mature woodlots, etc. (not only via tree plantings), management of stormwater under extreme weather events and vegetative cover to provide evapotranspiration, reduced temperatures and reductions in runoff and flooding;

d) to recognize the potential utility of the Natural Heritage System for climate change mitigation, we must better understand current baseline conditions. To begin, EEPAC recommends that the City assemble and present existing baseline data to EEPAC to support the quantification of carbon sequestration by the Natural Heritage System, as well as inventory of the amounts and quality of wetlands, woodlots and other natural lands currently remaining within the City of London. Only with baseline data can an effective and successful Climate Emergency Action Plan with specific targets and accountability be achieved. Using this baseline data, the impacts of climate change on the Natural Heritage System should be modeled under various warming scenarios (e.g., using Global Circulation Models). Further, models could be used to predict the extent to which local climate change effects can be mitigated by Natural Heritage features (e.g., quantifying carbon sequestration and stormwater absorption by green spaces);

e) a framework should be developed to systematically monitor the impacts of climate change on the Natural Heritage System over time, with checkpoints to assess whether the City is on track to meet its climate targets and determine if further measures are warranted; and

f) the role of EEPAC in the further development and implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan should be clarified. EEPAC wishes to remain involved in consulting with and supporting the City on the implications of the Climate Emergency.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Light Pollution Relating to Bird Friendly Skies

That a Working Group consisting of P. Ferguson, L. Grieves and B. Samuels BE ESTABLISHED to light pollution as it relates to London's Bird Friendly Skies program; it being noted that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee reviewed and received a communication dated August 13, 2021, from B. Samuels, with respect to this matter.

5.2 2331 Kilally Road and 1588 Clarke Road

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application to revise the application for Draft Plan of Subdivision, Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments relating to the properties located at 2331 Kilally Road and 1588 Clarke Road, dated July 6, 2021, from L. Mottram, Senior Planner, was received.

5.3 (ADDED) Western Road and Sarnia Road / Philip Aziz Improvements
MCEA - Project Restart

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Study Restart dated August 16, 2021, relating to the Western Road and Sarnia Road/Philip Aziz Avenue Improvements Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, was received.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The next meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee will be held on September 23, 2021



LIVING
ADJACENT
TO
NATURAL
FEATURES

EEPAC Presentation

August 19th, 2021

OUR CHALLENGE

Reach out to Conservation Authorities, Municipalities, and Developers to understand what is provided to Homeowners Living Adjacent to Natural Heritage Features

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING

Different priorities for different areas

- Southern Ontario: more emphasis on wetland protection, rarity because of development
- Northern Ontario: still need for protection but more common

Toronto

- concerns with bird collision deterrence
- *An Enduring Wilderness: Toronto's Natural Parklands* coffee table book
 - Neighbourhood association presentations of book and city Natural Heritage regulations
- Ravine and Natural Heritage Regulations

Guelph

- General Environmental policies

Ottawa

- Focus on species at risk native to the area

WHERE LONDON STANDS

Good protection policies, adaptable

New environmental management policies for developers based on new standards: calling for greater buffering/setbacks

Unique priority of targeting homeowners living near Natural Heritage Features

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

When protecting Natural Heritage Areas, often encroachment has already occurred following development, policies are acquired too late

Although homeowners are given brochures with information, research has not been done to measure their effectiveness

No guarantee that original homeowners will pass on information received to next owner

With COVID-19, it is no longer just those living nearby encroaching Natural Heritage Areas

Maintaining the "City's side of the fence", homeowners only able to maintain their side of the fence

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PUBLIC

Recognizing and targeting groups of concern

- Ex. Teens, best channels to provide information (ex. School, extracurricular organizations, Youth programs)
- Dog and Cat Owners
- Cyclists

Enforcement

- Auditing those who live nearby and abuse ESA

Guided Walks: "you can't appreciate natural areas if you can't go in"

- In-person with guide
- Social media through video
- QR Codes?

Pop-up Events and Booths at Local Events

Interpretive Signage, showing features of ESA rather than simple 'Don't do this' signs

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEVELOPERS

Reinforcement of Guidelines and Monitoring

- Are recommendations made through EISs being followed through?

Restrictions for adjacent properties should be outlined in a purchase agreement and buyers should be informed before purchase

Educating building and real estate community