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Date: 24 June 2024  
Time: 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.  
Location: Council Chambers – Meeting Room

Attendance: Jackie Oblak, Committee Chair  
Wayne Olson, Ward One Councillor  
Mike Hoch, Committee Member  
Ryan Taylor, Committee Member  
Sydney Van Leeuwen, Administrative Assistant  
Gimuel Ledesma, Engineering Technologist  
Jason Marr, Director of Public Works  
Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner  
Samantha Witkowski, Environmental Coordinator

Regrets: Mike Hoch, Committee Member

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### **1. Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum**

Noting that quorum was present, Chair Jackie Oblak called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 a.m.

### **2. Land Recognition Statement**

Jackie Oblak recited the land recognition statement.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Moved by:** Mike Jones  
**Seconded by:** Natalie Seniuk

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the June 24, 2024, regular meeting of the Environmental and Climate Adaption Advisory Committee be adopted.**

**Carried**

#### **4. Approval of the May 27, 2024, Minutes**

**Moved by:** Ryan Taylor

**Seconded by:** Mike Jones

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes for the May 27, 2024, regular meeting of the Environmental and Climate Adaption Advisory Committee be approved.**

**Carried**

#### **5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There were no pecuniary interests disclosed by any of the members present.

#### **6. New Official Plan Update – Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner**

Lindsay spoke to the ECAAC about the Town's new draft Official Plan and how it is almost complete. Staff are actively looking for the best way to incorporate the Climate Adaption Plan into the Official Plan.

Lindsay hopes to have the OP to the public in the next several weeks for public feedback and will then share with the committee. Staff will be requesting feed back from the public at this time.

The Towns new Official Plan is reflective of the Niagara Regions Official Plan. The Official Plan is heavily focused on the environmental side, which the previous Official Plan was not. The Town has incorporated what the Niagara Region as done from an environmental perspective.

Lindsay is looking for feedback from the ECAAC and public on various areas of the environmental section of the Official Plan and the clarity of this area.

The Planning Department is aiming for this new Official Plan to be more easily understood by the public.

Lindsay mention that the Town of Pelham is one of the first municipalities within the Region to get out a new Official Plan since the Niagara Region changed theirs.

The Planning Department is hoping to have a draft Official Plan out to the public this summer and to have the completed plan to Council by the Fall of 2024.

Lindsay spoke to there not being a lot of direction from a provincial perspective, the only direction the Town does have is from the Greenbelt Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

Lindsay spoke to the improved mapping in the Towns new Official Plan. The mapping is more specific and detailed in certain areas of Town.

Committee members asked if the Natural Asset Inventory will be apart of the Official Plan. Lindsay mention that parts of the data collection will be apart of the Official Plan.

**Action:** Staff to send committee the OP once ready for review. Word doc, PDF and hardcopy.

## **7. Workplan Discussion – Items to Address**

Communications – Priority – Natalie to request a meeting with Leah to establish the best way to develop a digital presence on the Town website.

Town Trees (Significant Trees) – have residents become aware of these trees and appreciation around them. Mike Jones will bring this idea up to PATH's next board meeting. Goal being to have residents' development an understanding of these trees and how to best protect and preserve them. Ideas of how to get the community involved. PATH is already involving public to participate in events and teach those within Pelham about trees. PATH is currently planning an event that will happen one of the two weekends following the Civic Holiday weekend. Staff mentioned that the Town does have an inventory of all municipally owned urban trees.

**Action:** Jason to ask Operational staff the forecast for the Town inventorying and mapping rural trees.

**Action:** Share the Niagara Navigator site with the ECAAC.

Samantha mentioned Tree-O-Code, this is an application that could encourage residents to enter their tree and it will be generated on a map. If there is a way to make resident participation less restrictive, this may help encourage people to use it.

**Action:** Mike Jones to look up the definition of a Significant Tree. Jackie has been in touch with NCC and NPCA regarding the pathway to the Marlene Stewart St. Park. The NPCA has displayed interest in discussing. The idea would be to have each organization create a plan of management for the site. Jackie has not heard much back about this plan yet, but they are planning on creating one.

The Town is currently working with the NPCA on the feasibility of creating a trail from either the north point of Haist St., where the new NPCA property is or Pelham St N, but this location would be more involved.

**Action:** Jason to bring in mapping for the potential trail once locations are established.

Adopt a Trail Program – ECAAC requested that staff bring this to the PATC to see if this is something they would be interested in promoting.

## **8. Review of Pelham By-Laws with an Environmental Lens**

Committee member Ryan is doing an analysis of all our current by-laws from an environmental perspective and looking to gain access to all data pertaining to these issues.

**Action:** Staff to discuss with Clerks about by-law availability and if there is a possibility to provide more by-laws to the committee.

The idea of the analysis is to see if our documents are up to date or if there is room for improvement and additions to our by-laws from an environmental standpoint (Eg. Provincial vs. Municipal).

Ryan also mentioned to the committee that the by-laws are not overly accessible and are often scanned documents, he is converting these

documents during the analysis to make them more accessible. Ryan offered to share these accessible documents.

## **9. Upcoming Items**

Jackie brought to the ECAAC that Kerry Royer has offered to be a liaison for the NPCA. This was confirmed through Clerks, and Kerry will be noted as a guest during meetings. Kerry will not be able to vote, only speak to NPCA matters.

**Motion: To invite Kerry Royer as a liaison for the NPCA as a regular guest.**

**Mover:** Mike Jones  
**Seconded:** Ryan Taylor

**Carried**

Jackie has been in contact with Trout Unlimited and she has invited them to attend as guests.

**Motion to extend the meeting by 15 Minutes:**

**Mover:** Ryan Taylor  
**Seconded:** Natalie Seniuk

**Carried**

Councillor Olson spoke to an NRT update - July 1, 2024, the NRT is starting a new process, now you can go to everywhere in the region except Niagara on the Lake and Stanford Plaza using NRT. This service will be through the NRT On Demand. There will also be Saturday service, and its hours are now 7am-11pm. There have been 11 speciality buses and 19 high efficiency buses within their fleet.

Niagara Geopark – the visit from UNESCO is the second week of July and they will be within Niagara for about 3 days. They will be visiting the Comfort Maple and Shorthill Provincial Park.

## **10. Adjournment**

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**Moved by:** Ryan Taylor  
**Seconded by:** Natalie Seniuk

**THAT this Regular Meeting of the Environmental and Climate  
Adaption Advisory Committee be adjourned at 11:45 a.m.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2024.**

**Carried**

*Jackie Oblak*  
Jackie Oblak (Jul 24, 2024 16:41 EDT)

**Chair, Jackie Oblak**

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*Sydney Van Leeuwen*  
**Administrative Assistant, Sydney Van Leeuwen**