Pelham
NIAGARA

**Environmental and Climate Adaption
Advisory Committee**
2024-07
Official Minutes

Date:	22 July 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
Sydney Van Leeuwen, Administrative Assistant
Jordan Wilton, Committee Member
Gimuel Ledesma, Engineering Technologist
Jason Marr, Director of Public Works
Lindsay Richardson, Policy Planner
Samantha Witkowski, Environmental Coordinator
Mike Hoch, Committee Member

Regrets:
Natalie Seniuk, Committee Member
Ryan Taylor, Committee Member

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: Mike Hoch

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the July 22, 2024, regular meeting of the Environmental and Climate Adaption Advisory Committee be adopted.

Carried

4. Approval of the May 27, 2024, Minutes

Moved by: Mike Jones
Seconded by: Mike Hoch

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Minutes for the June 24, 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. Natural Asset Inventory (NAI) Update – Shannon Larocque, Manager of Planning

Shannon Larocque, Manager of Planning updated the committee on the recent report that Town staff received regarding our Natural Assets Inventory (NAI). This project commenced after the Town applied for a grant from the Greenbelt Foundation. The report started with the Town of Pelham's natural assets (Eg. Wetlands, Storm Ponds, Forestry and Recreation Spaces). The natural asset features were rated based on quality and this was evaluated based on the given criteria.

The report looked at flooding and Storm Water Management as this was mentioned as a concern of staff, specifically at the 12-Mile Creek runoff.

There were 11 recommendations that came out of the report. Some recommendations include, updating job descriptions, updating Town policies, and updating the Official Plan.

The NAI report will be available online, through Engaging Pelham. There will also be a feed back form, this form will allow staff to see your

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feedback. Shannon hopes to breakdown the information so that is more easily understood through Engaging Pelham.

Shannon would like to see mapping developed to show value of these assets to also allow for a better understanding and transparency to residents.

The Niagara Region hired consultants to develop an inventory, and the NPCA further developed this in 2021 and the Town used the combined information to develop their inventory.

Committee members ask Shannon if projection data was used for Storm Water modeling. Shannon let the committee know she will look into this but believes that it was used to see how much storm water these locations can hold or sustain. It would also allow for the Town to consider what would be needed for more catastrophic events and how we could prepare for these.

This Natural Asset Inventory report has not yet been presented to Council; Shannon mentioned they hope to have the report to Council in September.

Jason spoke to the Town including the NAI report data and information into the Operations and Maintenance Manuals for wastewater and stormwater. This report will be an addition to the annual reports for both stormwater and wastewater. Similar to the already implemented Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS).

Ian Smith – Niagara College Professor and Trout Unlimited, he would like to reduce Storm Water Management Ponds and introduce Low Impact Development.

Motion: For Jason to invite Ian Smith to a ECAAC Meeting to discuss LID and SWMP

Mover: Jordan Wilton
Seconder: Mike Jones

Carried

Low Impact Development – currently there is no forced direction that developers are to implement this into their projects. Samantha mentioned that the Town of Lincoln does have a cash incentive for this. Staff spoke to how the Town of Pelham would be interested in looking into something like Lincoln, but not sure how to approach it to developers.

Committee would like to make the public aware to ensure that they know what is going on, issues and what staff is doing to adjust things. Hope to increase public engagement and communication through our social media and website.

Action: Sydney to print a hard copy if the NAI report committee members.

Committee wishes to develop a natural asset management manual. Staff mentioned that the committee can attend the public meeting around budget time.

7. Significant Tree Program

Mike Jones developed a Significant Tree Definition:

"A significant tree is defined as any evergreen tree, excluding holly, that is at least 15 inches (38.1 cm) in diameter at Designative Standard Height (DSH), which is four and one-half feet at breast level (137.6 cm). Additionally, any deciduous tree that is at least 12 inches (30.48 cm) at breast height, excluding poplar or Boxelder (Manitoba Maple, Ash-leaved maple, scientifically known as Acer Negundo), should be excluded as a significant tree."

Samantha spoke to the Significant Tree initiative the Town of Lincoln currently has in place. They are currently working with Green Communities Canada. The Town has created their own mapping system and then people can use that to identify these trees and it will be uploaded into the map. The Town has a goal to plant 1000 trees by the end of 2024 and they hope to have them planted on private property and then have them tagged on the map. They are also looking at encouraging planting on businesses.

Staff and committee members spoke to how Pelham is more interested in preserving the current trees that are already planted and would like to develop a program to establish a way to track the significant trees. PATH would like to have residents involved in developing a Significant Tree Project by having residents label their private trees as significant. The hopes for this initiative would be to have residents understand why it might be important to establish a tree by-law in the future.

National Forest Week is the week of September 22-28, 2024. Mike Jones spoke to PATH's annual photo challenge that they host on their Facebook page. The Committee members spoke possibly doing something similar on the Town's pages.

Action: Jason to discuss with Vickie to include Significant Trees into the National Day of Recognition

8. Upcoming Items

Motion to Extend for 15 Minutes

Mover: Mike Jones
Seconder: Jordan Wilton

Carried

Motion: For Leah to discuss with Natalie opportunities to have information on the Towns website regarding Climate and Environment.

Mover: Jordan Wilton
Seconder: Mike Jones

Carried

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Niagara Geopark Update

The Geopark group toured the Niagara Region to evaluate the area as it is under consideration to become Geopark. The judges were very impressed from what Councillor Olson could see. They toured various places within the Niagara Region. Their evaluation will now go back to UNESCO in Paris, France.

Communities in Bloom

The judges were here a couple of weeks ago, and there will be a report sent back to the Town with some recommendations.

Saturday, August 10th PATH will be having a picnic at Peace Park from 3-7:30pm, there will be a BBQ, there is a requirement to preregister on PATHs Facebook page.

9. **Adjournment**

   Moved by: Mike Jones
   Seconded by: Mike Hoch

   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, August 26, 2024.

   Carried

   Mike Jones
   Mike Jones (Aug 27, 2024 18:58 EDT)
   Vice Chair, Mike Jones

   Sydney VanLeeuwen
   Administrative Assistant, Sydney Van Leeuwen