



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PLAN2021-009

Meeting Date: March 9, 2021

Title: Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) 2021 Work Plan

Description: Environmental Advisory Committee 2020 Review and 2021 Proposed Work Plan

Author and Title: Richard Holy, Manager of Planning

Recommendations:

That Report PLAN2021-009, Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) 2021 Work Plan, be received;

That the 2021 proposed Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan as outlined in Appendix B to Report PLAN2021-009 be approved; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

This report summarizes the work undertaken in 2020 and proposes a work plan for 2021 as per Policy number 028 CAO 002 – Non-legislated Committees of Council.

Rationale:

The pandemic affected CKLEAC's ability to conduct meetings and also fulfill many of their 2020 work plan objectives. Although only 4 meetings were held during the 2020 calendar year and event planning being suspended, the Environmental Advisory Committee were able to complete the following goals from their 2020 Work Plan.

1. EAC replaced its Environmental Hero Award with a Business Environmental Hero to champion businesses that promote sustainability. A total of 7 local businesses received business hero awards for their ingenuity and dedication in promoting environmental conservation.

One Youth Environmental Hero Award was given to a local Grade 5 and 6 class in Lindsay for their efforts to reduce plastic waste.

All awards were presented to the recipients at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 12, 2021.

2. The Bee City subcommittee continued work on promoting pollinator habitat and raising awareness on the issues within the City. A total of 7 Bee A Hero Award winners were presented with certificates and gift cards at the November 3, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting recognizing their commitment to promoting pollinator habitat.
3. The Committee finalized its background work for developing a tree preservation by-law. The database of research based on by-laws that other communities in Ontario and a background draft report was provided to the Planning Department. Public consultation for the proposed tree preservation by-law will commence in Q1 of 2021.
4. The Active Transportation group continued their work on building support for active transportation policy and infrastructure in the following manner.
 - Building support for Active Transportation Master Plan through various community stakeholders and assisting with developing the study's Terms of Reference.
 - Monitoring Active Transportation infrastructure use during the pandemic in various communities.
 - Taking an active commenting role for active transportation infrastructure in larger developments.
5. EAC continues its work on roadside brushing and spraying. They have been working with Public Works to have roadside brushing activities delayed to accommodate bird breeding season. They are also interested in obtaining more information on the

roadside spraying initiative that the Public Works Department be implemented. Unfortunately, the pandemic prevented Staff from reporting to Committee of the Whole on these two issues.

6. EAC has been working with the City's waste management group on the reduction of single use plastics. The working group prepared templates for Remember to Bring Your Own Bag signage and received quotes for making the signs. Volunteers were about to carry out Step 2 by meeting with stakeholders when the COVID-19 restrictions came into effect and it would have been inappropriate timing for going ahead with the initiative at that point in time.

In June, the Federal Government announced the ban of single-use plastics and shopping bags are on that list, so the working group has placed the signage initiative on hold until the implications of the Federal legislation have time to take effect. Once in effect, the working group will reassess the need for additional local action.

The 2021 Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan (Appendix B) includes projects and activities that will advance public environmental awareness, which is the core business of the Committee. This work plan needs to be adopted by Council to set the direction of Committee work for 2021. It identifies to the Committee what Council feels is important for the Committee to achieve during the year. Moving forward in 2021, EAC members agreed to reduce the number of work plans, and have all members concentrate and channel all efforts into the following projects.

1. Pollinator Action Committee: This committee will continue to work on developing new pollinator habitat in the community with a demonstration site at the Pickseed offices, organize the Bee A Hero Awards, and conduct seed bombing in trails using bicycles as a pollinator initiative.
2. Active Transportation: This group will continue to promote and raise awareness of active transportation, support the City with the Active Transportation Master Plan in 2021, provide input and encourage active transportation infrastructure in new developments, develop active transportation infrastructure in the Lindsay downtown, and develop a Bike Share program in Lindsay.
3. Plastics Reduction: The group will monitor the effectiveness of Federal legislation to reduce single-use plastic bags and determine whether further local action is necessary.
4. Conversion of Wetlands to Farmland: A group has been conducting research in the local area regarding the conversion of wetlands to farmland. Members would like to meet with both the Conservation Authority and the Agricultural Development Advisory Board to gain more insight on this issue.

Other Alternatives Considered:

The submissions within this report follow policy and direction of Council with respect to Committees of Council so no other alternatives were considered.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

For reference the four strategic priorities within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan are:

1. Healthy Environment
2. An Exceptional Quality of Life
3. A Vibrant and Growing Economy
4. Good Government

The work of this Committee of Council relates to the Council Adopted Strategic Plan in the areas of a Vibrant and Growing Economy. Through consultation and advice provided by local citizens involved in the environmental sector, Council is able to support a stronger local economy and healthier environment through the delivery of programs and policy decisions that provide support to the sector.

[Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#)

Financial/Operation Impacts:

With the adoption of work plans and annual reports, Council has developed a way for Committees of Council to be accountable for their important input into the future of this municipality. Efforts can now be refocused from administrative (non-value added) duties to more in-depth work by the volunteers (value added). There are no financial considerations associated with this recommendation.

Consultations:

Environmental Advisory Committee

Councillor Tracy Richardson

Attachments:

Appendix A – 2020 Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan Review



2020 CKLEAC Work
Plan.docx

Appendix B – 2021 Proposed Environmental Advisory Committee Work Plan



2021 CKLEAC Work
Plan.docx

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Department File: C06