

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number PLAN 2017-046

Date: June 27, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: All

Subject: Bee City Designation for the City of Kawartha Lakes

Author/Title: Richard Holy, Manager of Policy Planning

Recommendations:

RESOLVED THAT Report PLAN2017-046, "Bee City Designation", be received;

THAT the City of Kawartha Lakes adopt the Bee City Resolution as follows:

WHEREAS the goal of Bee City designation is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators;

THAT bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, climate change, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna;

THAT cities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land;

THAT supporting pollinators fosters environmental awareness and sustainability, and increases interactions and engagement among community stewards;

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

THAT becoming a Bee City means creating and protecting pollinator habitat which aligns with the goals of the City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan;

THAT by becoming a Bee City, the City can highlight initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community;

THAT the City of Kawartha Lakes agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City communities by designating the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) as the Bee City program sponsor, agreeing to display Bee City signage in a prominent location, and maintaining information available to the public on this initiative.

THAT staff be authorized to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate the City of Kawartha Lakes as a Bee City; and

THAT the City of Kawartha Lakes commits to the standards of the Bee City Program.

Background:

The purpose of this report is to explain the Bee City program and request that Council formally adopt the City of Kawartha Lakes as a Bee City. The City is currently undertaking a number of programs and initiatives in support of a healthy pollinator population. With support from City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC), becoming a Bee City will make the City a visible model for progressive implementation of initiatives designed to protect and encourage native pollinator populations.

The goal of the Bee City Canada certification is to promote healthy, sustainable habitats and communities for bees and other pollinators. Bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to a combination of habitat loss, climate change, use of pesticides, and the spread of pests and diseases, with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna. Bee City Canada encourages municipalities and their residents have the opportunity to support bees and other pollinators on both public and private land and foster environmental awareness around this issue.

Accepting the Bee City designation would align with the following environmental goals in the City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan:

- 3.1.1. To enhance and protect the quality of the natural environment within the City.
- 3.2 a) To utilize an “Environment First Principle” which recognizes that the environment is the base upon which all land use activities take place.
- 3.2 c) To recognize that conservation of the natural environment within the Natural Heritage System is a priority of the City.

In becoming a Bee City, the City can highlight initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community. The designation could enhance understanding among municipal staff and the public about the vital role that pollinator’s play and what each of us can do to sustain them. In accepting the Bee City designation, the City of Kawartha Lakes would agree to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City communities.

1. Council would be requested to adopt the Bee City resolution contained at the beginning of this report and commit to implementing the matters in Points 2 and 3 below.
2. A Bee City community must have a sponsor group working within the community to promote the initiative. The City of Kawartha Lakes

Environmental Advisory Committee (CKLEAC) is ideally positioned as the Bee City program sponsor and the staff liaison of CKLEAC as the Bee City program liaison. Facilitation of the Kawartha Lakes Bee City program would be assigned to the Pollinator Sub-committee (committee members, experts and community leaders) to encourage and coordinate local pollinator habitat creation, protection, and awareness activities. This body will serve as the intermediary between citizens and the City in fulfilling the following commitments:

- Annually celebrate National Pollinator Week (third full week of June) or some other appropriate occasion with educational events, pollinator habitat plantings or restoration, proclamations promotions that showcase the City's commitment to enhancing pollinator biodiversity and habitat
 - Annually apply for renewal of the City of Kawartha Lakes' Bee City designation and submit a report of the previous year's activities.
3. The City would publicly acknowledge its commitment to the Bee City designation by agreeing to:
- a) Display Bee City signage in a prominent location of our choice; and
 - b) create/maintain information on The City of Kawartha Lakes' website which includes links to this signed Resolution and the Bee City website, contact information for the City of Kawartha Lakes' Bee City liaison and designated committee, and reports of the pollinator friendly activities the City has accomplished the previous year(s).

Rationale:

Adoption of Report PLAN2017-046 can make the City a leader in sustainability, attracting other health and environmentally conscious residents while also supporting the values of our existing residents.

Around the world, pollinators are struggling to survive amidst growing threats to their homes and health. In Canada, we have seen the disappearance of bee and butterfly species, the decline of others and a critical reduction in the number of migrating monarch butterflies. Pollinators are vital to a healthy and resilient ecosystem as well as our continued food supply. The conservation of pollinators is critical to the sustainability of Kawartha Lakes' natural areas and urban parks.

The designation as a Bee City and the associated efforts and events will encourage community concern and involvement in the pollinator initiative. Furthermore, it will reinforce the goals of the City's Integrated Community

Sustainability Plan by fostering community engagement and education, supporting healthy ecosystems and healthy food sources.

Bee City Canada will be our connection to other Bee City communities and their projects. This can create positive relationships for data and resource sharing.

CKLEAC has already established a Pollinator sub-committee focused on two aspects of the pollinator conservation.

1. One of the mandates would be to create and protect pollinator habitat especially for municipal properties and conservation areas. The sub-committee has been actively engaged with the City through an on-going pilot project to create pollinator habitat at the Fenelon Falls landfill on a decommissioned portion of the property. A portion of the decommissioned cell will be planted with a pollinator-friendly seed mixture (containing wildflowers) while the remainder of the site will be planted with the regular grass seed mixture approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. A protocol, developed by students at Fleming College, will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the pollinator friendly habitat versus the regular habitat. This monitoring activity will commence in conjunction with Fleming College students once the plant materials have become established. This project is important because its focus is creating habitats to support our native wild bee population.
2. Secondly, the CKLEAC Pollinator sub-group has been focusing on the Bee City application. Our research has shown that this program is an excellent way of engaging and educating the public. The group is prepared to provide the leadership necessary to get this initiative working.

More recently, at the Council Meeting of May 23, 2017, the presentation from Susan Blayney, a member of CKLEAC, and Shelly Candel, Director of Bee City Canada was delivered to Council to illustrate how a Bee City Designation for the City would benefit the community.

Other Alternatives Considered:

At this time, there are no other alternatives considered by Staff that greater represent environmentally sustainable planning in regards to pollinator biodiversity. Adoption of Bee City designation is an appropriate step to recognize and adhere to the City's sustainability initiatives.

Financial Considerations:

There is no cost or application fee associated with applying for a Bee City designation (See Appendix “A”). The City of Kawartha Lakes is asked to assign a committee to facilitate the local Bee City Canada participation. This commitment can be fulfilled using existing resources by having CKLEAC function as the program sponsor and liaison, and assign facilitation of the Kawartha Lakes Bee City program to the Pollinator Sub-committee.

There is no fee associated with the annual renewal process to maintain Bee City affiliation. The Bee City program, as currently written, does not require the City to propose new initiatives or undertake activities that would require additional resources beyond what is stated in the resolution commitments.

There are some financial considerations associated with this initiative, which would be funded through the current Development Services budget. Considerations would include the erection of Bee City signage. While a minimum of one sign needs to be placed in a prominent location, additional signage is encouraged. Bee City Canada provides the artwork for the signage.

Relationship of Recommendations to Strategic Priorities:

The City of Kawartha Lakes, as stated in our Strategic Plan, is taking action to transform our City into a more successful, desirable and sustainable place to live. We, as stated in our Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, are a community pursuing Prosperity, Quality of Life and a Healthy Environment. The citizens of our municipality are already demonstrating their desire to assist pollinators through projects like:

- Habitat restoration through the Fenelon Falls Landfill Pollinator Habitat pilot project
- The Bobcaygeon Wilderness Park Pollinator Patch
- Horticultural Societies throughout the City of Kawartha Lakes
- Our protected natural areas: provincial parks, conservation areas, land trust holdings
- Our Community Gardens
- The Lindsay Lilac Garden

The Bee City designation would help to promote an exceptional quality of life, a healthy environment, and the goals of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

Consultations:

Consultations involved CKLEAC, Shelly Candel, Director of Bee City Canada, and Kelly Maloney, Agricultural Development Officer.

Conclusion:

The designation of the City of Kawartha Lakes as a Bee City will provide direction for the community to realize sustainability objectives. Based on the comments contained in this report, Staff respectfully request that the recommendations contained in this report be endorsed. Planning staff do not anticipate any negative impacts as a result of the Bee City designation.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps, and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call Richard Holy, Manager of Planning, 705-324-9411 ext. 1246.

Appendix “A” – Bee City Application



PLAN2017-046
Appendix A.pdf

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Department File: C06