

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Agenda

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

CKLEAC2024-003

Thursday, April 18, 2024

2:30 P.M.

Electronic Participation Meeting

Members:

Councillor Pat Warren

Grant Barker

Virginia Colling

Jamie Morris

Santosh Patel

Doug Paterson

Deborah Pearson

David Ryrie

Barry Snider

Christine Szabados

NOTE: This is an electronic participation meeting. Please contact the ckleac@kawarthalakes.ca should you wish to view the proceedings and the zoom meeting link will be provided.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. The City of Kawartha Lakes is committed to accessibility for persons with disabilities. Please contact AgendaItems@kawarthalakes.ca if you have an accessible accommodation request.

1.	Call to Order	
2.	Administrative Business	
2.1	Adoption of Agenda	
2.2	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	
2.3	Adoption of Minutes of March 21, 2024	3 - 12
3.	Deputations/Presentations	
4.	Correspondence	
5.	Action Item Updates	
5.1	CKLEAC Work Plan Updates by Project Team Leaders	
5.2	Bobcaygeon Enviro Fair	
5.3	Environmental Hero Awards	
5.4	Bee a Hero Awards	
5.5	Tree Preservation and Clean and Clear By-laws	
5.6	Tour of City Facilities	
6.	New or Other Business	
6.1	Rural Zoning By-law	
6.2	Local Agricultural Practices and the Environment	
7.	Next Meeting	
8.	Adjournment	

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

CKLEAC2024-002
Thursday, March 21, 2024
2:30 P.M.
Electronic Participation Meeting

Members:
Councillor Pat Warren
Grant Barker
Virginia Colling
Jamie Morris
Santosh Patel
Doug Paterson
Deborah Pearson
David Ryrie
Barry Snider
Christine Szabados

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1. **Call to Order**

In attendance: Councillor Pat Warren, Virginia Colling, Jamie Morris, Doug Paterson, Deborah Pearson, Santosh Patel, Christine Szabados, Ola Pasternak.

Absent: Grant Barker, Barry Snider, David Ryrie, Josh Feltham

Staff in attendance: Mark Jull, Policy Supervisor, Nancy Ord, Administrative Assistant

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

1.1 Introduction of new CKLEAC members

Three new CKLEAC members (Doug Paterson, Santosh Patel and Christine Szabados) were welcomed by the Chair and provided an overview of their professional or educational background and interest in CKLEAC. In turn, existing members and Staff introduced themselves and provided an overview of their roles.

2. **Administrative Business**

2.1 Adoption of Agenda

EAC2024.013

Moved By Councillor Warren

Seconded By V. Colling

That the Agenda be approved as amended to add sub-section 6.7 “Urban Tree Canopy”.

Carried

2.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest disclosed.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee meeting, February 1, 2024.

That the minutes from the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting of February 1, 2024 be received.

EAC2024.014**Moved By** J. Morris**Seconded By** V. Colling

That the minutes from the Environmental Advisory Committee meeting of February 1, 2024 be received and adopted as amended to change the word “plant” in the title of section 6.4 to “line”.

Carried

2.4 EAC Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct (CP2018-018).

M. Jull highlighted several sections of the Code of Conduct and EAC’s Terms of Reference relating to:

- presentations to City Council are made through CKLEAC and not by independent individual members,
- conduct relating to confidentiality, use of municipal information, maintaining political neutrality, restrictions on receiving gifts and relationship to Staff and Council,
- the Terms of Reference set out CKLEAC’s main mission, how it is achieved by advising and making recommendations to Council.

Staff were requested to investigate providing digital links to the Code of Conduct and Terms of Reference documents previously circulated with the Agenda. Staff were also requested to provide new members with digital links to key City documents such as the Sustainability Plan and the Healthy Environment Plan (HEP).

3. Deputations/Presentations

There were no deputations or presentations.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

5. Action Item Updates

5.1 Tree Protection By-law

Councillor Warren anticipated a draft by-law prepared by the City Solicitor would be before City Council for approval by early summer. The Solicitor is consulting

with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and will seek further CKLEAC input at the conclusion of those discussions.

Staff were directed to clarify with the City Solicitor timing for a follow up presentation/discussion with CKLEAC on the by-law.

Discussion followed on the lengthy time to create a Tree Protection by-law, that past efforts have not been successful with City Council and that CKLEAC is hopeful current efforts will result in an approved by-law.

New members were referred to the City's Jump In website page to view a copy of the most recent draft by-law.

5.2 Bobcaygeon Enviro Fair

The Chair reported on holding the Enviro Fair in collaboration with Bobcaygeon's Impact 32 "Welcome to Summer Event" on June 8, 2024 and commented on being welcomed by Impact 32. Planning the joint event will commence next week and will clarify CKLEAC's role (with a downsized Enviro Fair event from previous Lindsay events). Councillor Warren reported on efforts underway to ensure the Kawartha chapter of the EV group (who do not have a bank account and have had complications with their application name) will be able to access Bobcaygeon Chest Funds that have been approved.

Councillor Warren referred to a variety of demonstrations and participants to be involved in the June 8, 2024 event and that approval to close Canal Street in Bobcaygeon is required.

5.3 Clean and Clear by-law

Councillor Warren reported on the City Solicitor's ongoing work and the Chair volunteered to check on status.

Chair Pearson briefly described the by-law's proactive intent to allow for naturalized front lawns as a means to encourage pollinators and biodiversity while maintaining property maintenance standards and avoiding use of the term "weeds" when describing native plant material.

Member Patel raised the issue of artificial turf being pushed by the artificial turf industry as environmentally friendly due to the elimination of mowing and weed control by chemicals. Artificial turf currently has limited effectiveness in permeability to storm water run-off and does not encourage biodiversity and CKLEAC were encouraged to alert the City Solicitor and Council to include by-law wording which discourages artificial turf.

Discussion followed on reviewing the by-law name “clean and clear” as not consistent with encouraging biodiversity.

6. New or Other Business

6.1 Update on Sub-committees (Transportation, Pollinator Action, Bird Friendly City).

Pollinator Action Committee

C. Szabados reported on the “Bee a Hero” awards taking place on April 9, 2024 and referred to early stage work underway for:

- remediation of the Fenelon Landfill site,
- organizing a seed library with a prototype installed on the Balliduff Trail and planning for a Grand Opening event.

The following motion was presented for seed order invoices received for the seed library and seed packet give-aways at various events such as World Bee Day as follows:

- Canadian Organic Seeds \$80.55 including taxes
- Wildflower seeds mixes \$22.56 including taxes.

Bird Friendly Committee

J. Morris reported on the following:

- The Bird Team is composed of CKLEAC subcommittee members and representatives of Kawartha Conservation, Fleming College, Kawartha Land Trust, Kawartha Field Naturalists and Kawartha Bird Control and meets monthly.
- After March 22, 2024 the Bird Team will learn if its February 2024 application to Nature Canada for Bird Friendly City certification will be approved. Positive preliminary feedback has been received and thanks extended to M. Jull who assisted in completing the significant certification application form.
- The two-year “Stray and Feral Cat Pilot Project” will be suspended on March 31, 2024 on the recommendation of the City’s Manager and Municipal Law Enforcement and Licensing. Councillor Warren the project was paused as the Humane Society had no place to take animals but that RFPs are underway for options and to enable the by-law to be reinstated.

The subcommittee had also shared its concerns to staff on the suspension of the project since 75% of bird deaths are caused by roaming cats. Recommendations

had been made to increase effectiveness when the project is revived (e.g. electric fences, collars with QR codes)

- Planning is underway for a “City Bird-of-the-Year” contest to run on the City’s Jump In site. Eleven birds have been selected for voting options.
- Bird audit funding has been approved and will start with the Bobcaygeon Library.
- T. Luloff, Fleming College has arranged for TD Friends of the Environment funds for businesses in Peterborough, Lindsay, Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon that apply before March 31, 2024 to cover professional installation of window treatments for bird protection.

Councillor Warren referred to Provincial efforts to update the Building Code for window treatments and that Kawartha Lakes consider following the City of Toronto municipal level efforts.

- Fleming College’s Bird Conservation Committee will be holding an Eco-Fest Bird Day at Frost Campus’s Auk Lodge on Thursday, April 4th, from noon to 4:00 p.m and 7:00 to 10:00 pm., open to the public and will include viewing of live birds of prey, dedication to Fleming for Bird Friendly designation event, art contest, and bird song contest, among other activities.
- May 11 is Migratory Bird Day and suggestion was made to plan an event jointly with the Pollinator Action Committee.

Transportation Committee

Chair of the subcommittee D. Ryrie was not in attendance to provide a report.

EAC2024.015

Moved By C. Szabados

Seconded By J. Morris

That CKLEAC approves the payment of seed order invoices as described.

Carried

6.2 Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets invitation to attend

Staff were directed to invite the Director to attend an upcoming CKLEAC meeting to discuss in a general manner Low Impact Development standards and implementation of the updated standards in the Active Transportation Master Plan.

EAC2024.016**Moved By** V. Colling**Seconded By** S. Patel

That the Director of Engineering and Corporate Assets be invited to attend the next CKLEAC meeting to discuss, in general, Low Impact Development standards and the updated standards of the Active Transportation Master Plan.

Carried

6.3 Bobcaygeon Gas Plant Expansion

V. Colling provided background on recent actions by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) in order to educate CKLEAC members on the issue highlighting the following:

- The EAB has paused gas line extensions in a number of places in Ontario but the Province indicated it will reverse that decision and require the OEB to comply with the policies of the Provincial government and its Ministers thereby removing the independence of the OEB.
- Action is underway by both Enbridge and ratepayers on the issue. Many are supporting the OEB but Kawartha Lakes City Council in Fall 2023 supported Enbridge's gas line extensions based on past Council's decisions.

Councillor Warren indicated she would report back on the results of a memorandum being presented at the April 9, 2024 meeting to develop a management plan to green the municipal fleet of vehicles and to expand the number of EV charging stations. The existence of a management plan will enable Kawartha Lakes to apply for Ontario grants where the municipality may receive 75% funding for projects. Discussion followed on the number of EV charging stations in Kawartha Lakes and several links were referenced for further information.

6.4 Environmental Hero Awards

M. Jull was requested to clarify with Communications Division the procedures for accepting nominations, criteria for the awards and what communications have occurred to date.

J. Morris requested the Environmental Student Hero award eligibility criteria be expanded beyond the current Kindergarten to Grade 12 criteria to include students at any level such as those attending Fleming College.

EAC2024.017**Moved by:** J. Morris**Seconded by:** O. Pasternak**That** the Environmental Hero Awards in the Environmental Student category be open to students of all ages.**Carried.**

Councillor Warren raised the issue of expanding CKLEAC's Terms of Reference to allow for a student member.

Discussion followed on the recent interviews undertaken for new members and that the Terms of Reference have a minimum age of 18 years and no provision for a student member.

M Jull suggested care be taken to consider, at minimum, the following issues: how many student member positions be available, age range, parental consent, length of appointment, what happens if a student member turns 18 and/or leaves the City for post-secondary education or work, and what would be the benefit to a young person to be a student member rather than just volunteer.

A subcommittee or task force was recommended with volunteers including S. Patel, P. Warren, D. Pearson and C. Szabados to review the Terms of Reference, investigate inclusion of a student member and report back to CKLEAC. It was indicated Staff would provide support to the subcommittee where required.

The Chair indicated a follow up meeting would be arranged of the Task Force with intent to report at the next CKLEAC meeting.

EAC2024.018**Moved By** S. Patel**Seconded By** C. Szabados**That** a Task Force be formed to review the CKLEAC Terms of Reference to include a student member on CKLEAC.**Carried****6.5 Healthy Environment Plan**

Chair Pearson requested staff provide a link to the Healthy Environment Plan and the recently updated Strategic Plan.

M. Jull provided links in the Zoom meeting's 'chat' feature.

M. Jull indicated action is underway with People's Services Division to hire an Environmental Planner and reactivating the Healthy Environment Plan will be one of the position's priorities.

6.6 Municipal Target for Emission Reductions

Chair Pearson indicated setting municipal targets is part of the Healthy Environment Plan update process and discussion raised the following:

- A primary goal of the HEP is to reduce emissions and CKLEAC is not aware of any progress or reporting on meeting the Federal emission targets for net zero by 2050.
- The updated Strategic Plan contains policy relating to measurement.
- People working from home and not commuting have contributed to reducing emissions.
- Potential gas line expansion to Bobcaygeon and Omemee works against meeting emission reduction goals.
- Fortune 500 companies typically have a third party undertake sustainability reports to ensure credibility and caution was noted in setting end goal targets to ensure credible results.
- Encouraging the setting of targets is an area of focus for CKLEAC and can be either addressed now or as part of the Healthy Environment Plan update and that a subcommittee be formed focusing on the Healthy Environment Plan.

Volunteers to participate in the subcommittee include J. Morris, G. Colling, D. Pearson and P. Warren and Staff were requested to provide the digital link for the "Sustainability Plan" which predates the Healthy Environment Plan.

EAC2024.019

Moved By V. Colling

Seconded By J. Morris

That a subcommittee be created for the Healthy Environment Plan and to recommend emission targets as a means to realize successes and encourage further action.

Carried**6.7 Urban Tree Canopy**

J. Morris referred to members to Pages 51 and 52 of the Healthy Environment Plan which includes a variety of tree initiatives and indicated there are limited Parks Division staff to undertake tree canopy inventorying.

An issue for the Healthy Environment Plan subcommittee is to consider recommending a target for urban tree canopy which could partner with Fleming College and the Kawartha Land Trust. City of Peterborough which now has 26.5% urban tree canopy and a target of 35.0% and KRCA statistics for Lindsay show a 17% urban tree canopy.

Councillor Warren reported that Environmental Action Bobcaygeon is applying for a Trillium Grant to undertake a tree canopy study in Bobcaygeon.

S. Patel referred to the number of students seeking co-op placement who could be involved in inventorying park trees for disease and replacement. Reference was made to the number of trees impacted by Dutch Elm disease and Emerald Ash Bore which should be taken down and chipped. On developing a co-op student program, Chair Pearson will follow up with Fleming College contacts and Staff/Councillor Warren would investigate means for S. Patel to sponsor a co-op position.

For Earth Day, O. Pasternak reported that KRCA have arranged for school groups to pick up litter in Conservation Areas and on April 22, 2024 several events are planned for the Gamiing Earth Day event including presentation by CKLEAC member V. Colling.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024.

8. Adjournment

EAC2024.020

Moved By V. Colling

Seconded By S. Patel

That the meeting be adjourned at **4:47 p.m.**

Carried