

Environmental Task Force Minutes

9:00 AM - Tuesday, December 17, 2024
Council Chambers

Present: Councillor Roy Huetl (Chair); Deputy Mayor John Inglis; Councillor Fred Fowler; Paul Asselin; and Bruce Moore (Electronic Participation)

Absent with Regret: Ange Defosse; Marlene Spruyt; Katie Surra; and Michael Ward

Also Present: Tara Mieske, Clerk/Planning Manager, Dipl.M.A. Dipl.M.M., and Darwyn Sproule, Public Works Manager, P. Eng.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None noted.

4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- a) ***Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated November 26, 2024 as approved via email and received for information at the Regular Meeting of Council held December 13, 2024.***

5. Business Arising

a) ***Work Plan - Update***

1. ***Battery Storage Opportunities - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt***
2. ***Net Metering - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt***
3. ***Invasive Species - Roy Huetl***
4. ***Septic Inspection Programs - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra and Roy Huetl***
5. ***Carrying Capacity of Lakes - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra and Mike Ward***
6. ***Short-term Rentals - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra and John Inglis***

1. Battery Storage Opportunities

It was noted the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) is seeking projects under the Long-Term 2 (LT2) program for wind, solar and battery storage projects. These projects would go into operation in 2030 with a 20 year contract starting at that point. Proponents are currently looking for sites. They are ideally looking for lands that are flat and close to a transmission line. North Frontenac is not a first choice because of the

terrain. If a potential site is determined, the proponent would contact the landowner and if a potential agreement is reached they would advise the public of their intentions. There are no costs to the Township for these projects.

Deputy Mayor Inglis advised he has had some discussions with two potential proponents. They do not have a lot of interest but are going to reach out to discuss options. He also spoke with Chief Davis about a potential project.

Asselin advised the proponent decides where they would like to locate a project based on location in relation to their operations, available capacity on the hydro infrastructure, location of transmission lines, etc. There is capacity available on the transmission lines within North Frontenac. The proponent would be responsible for all costs to establish the site and full clean-up when the project is complete as well as all on-going costs.

The benefit to the Township of a project would be a financial commitment from the proponent to local projects (i.e. schools, recreation projects, etc.). For example the Ottawa west project provides \$400,000 per year to community projects for 20 years. Other benefits include environmental benefits due to the reduction of fossil fuel emissions and assistance with fire department training and equipment.

2. Net Metering

Use of this program would allow the Township to create energy which would be added into the grid. The Township receives a credit for the energy created which offsets the costs for the energy used. The advantages of the program are:

1. Long-term financial gain. It would take 8 to 10 years to recover the upfront costs of the project but would recoup savings on energy costs after this.
2. Environmental benefits.
3. Power continuity.

The Task Force would like to look at opportunities of adding more solar panels to the Township office complex. It was noted there may be advantages to adding solar panels to some of the Township's smaller buildings. The Task Force would like to have the Public Works Manager (PWM) provide some details on the layout of some buildings and energy use. This information could be provided to private companies to provide proposals to the Township on opportunities for net metering projects.

3. Invasive Species

Mike Ward and Councillor Fowler asked to be added to this sub-committee.

Councillor Huetl advised Council approved at the request of the Mazinaw Property Owners Association (MPOA) applying for a micro-grant of \$3,500 for educational materials (signage, markers, etc.) and discussing with the Township of Addington Highlands an opportunity for a boat washing station. A date has not been set yet for the meeting with the two Townships, federal and provincial representatives and agencies regarding Eurasian Milfoil.

Moore advised the Palmerston Lake Association has started to complete drone surveys of areas of concern in Palmerston Lake for Eurasian Milfoil.

The PWM advised he also been requested by Council to look at the extent of the phragmites problem along Township roads.

4. Septic Inspections

Councillor Fowler asked to be added to this sub-committee.

Moore advised they are currently reviewing reports and updating the data to reflect the current information. He will provide an update in January. Huetl requested the sub-committee meet in January. He will request the attendance of the Clerk/Planning Manager, Chief Building Official and potentially some other staff/committee members at this meeting. The sub-committee will look at when septic inspections can be requested and how to implement a program, including phasing in the program.

The PWM advised Eric Kohlsmith, Inspector, Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office will be attending Council on January 31, 2025 to provide his annual report on the Septic Inspection program.

5. Carrying Capacity

Moore advised they are obtaining and reviewing reports and are hoping to meet in January.

6. Short-term Rentals

Moore advised some members of the NFLAA would be meeting on January 10, 2025 to discuss the experience of other municipalities who have implemented short-term rental licensing programs. They are also interested in continuing discussions with Addington Highlands, Central Frontenac and South Frontenac on establishing a system to regulate short-term rentals that are of a commercial nature. Huetl requested Moore include the other members of the sub-committee in this discussion.

b) *Energy Plan*

The PWM advised the Township is required to implement a plan every five years including establishing energy reduction targets for the five years. He noted this is only for the Township facilities and does not include vehicles.

He noted the Township had good results over the past five years. Some of the activities that contributed to the reduction in energy use include changing to LED lighting, and conversions from oil furnaces to propane furnaces and heat pumps.

Over the next five years in order to meet the Township's targets more lighting will be changed to LED and when heating systems need to be replaced/upgraded. He also

noted he would be open to suggestions from the Task Force on ways to reduce energy usage.

With respect to vehicles, when lighter vehicles need to be replaced, staff are looking at the feasibility of replacing them with electric options.

6. New Business

None.

7. Adjournment

- a) ***Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m. until January 28, 2025.***

Councillor Roy Huetl, Chair,
Environmental Task Force