



Environmental Task Force Minutes

9:30 AM - Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Council Chambers

Present: Councillor Roy Huetl (Chair); Councillor Fred Fowler; Deputy Mayor John Inglis (Electronic Participation); Paul Asselin, Mike Ward, Katie Surra, Marlene Spruyt, Bruce Moore (Electronic Participation), and Ange Defosse (Electronic Participation)

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

1. Call to Order of the Inaugural Meeting

a) *Introduction of Members and staff.*

The Chair called the meeting at 9:30 a.m. All members introduced themselves.

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None declared.

4. Environmental Task Force Notes

a) *None.*

5. Business Arising

a) *None.*

6. New Business

a) *Chair - Procedural Policy and Process*

The Chair advised the applicable sections of the Procedural Policy were included in the Agenda. He also advised the Task Force will follow Robert's Rules. Members should be

acknowledged by the Chair and only one Member should speak at a time. The meetings will not be formal but a level of decorum is required.

The Task Force was also advised they will receive the Meeting Notes by email following the meeting and if they have any comments, questions or concerns they should advise the Secretary. The Notes will be provided to Council and include any recommendations from the Task Force.

b) *Draft Terms of Reference*

The Task Force reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and brainstormed some ideas for the proposed Mission, Vision, Mandate and Milestones and Tasks including:

Mission: To assess and provide recommendations regarding policies and programs in regards to environmental protection; building localized adaptation, mitigation, resiliency in the face of climate change; educate local citizenship and community.

Vision: Health of residents and local wild spaces.

Mandate: To provide recommendations to Council on policies and programs to protect the environment and to provide recommendations on an action plan to manage/mitigate climate change impacts.

Topics of Discussion included:

1. Education and leadership: newsletters included with tax bills, website, social media.
2. Investigate the FCM – Green Municipal Fund: Requires a local group to implement an Environmental Action Plan. It was noted there is a Frontenac area based group starting.
3. Energy reduction, including municipal energy use being more efficient: considering electric vehicles, solar panels, etc. The Township is required to prepare an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan every five years and report annually.
4. Identify existing initiatives: how we can expand/support them (i.e. community gardens, litter pick-up events, etc.). The community garden concept was discussed. A community garden allows people to grow food, encourages sharing knowledge and increases social interactions. The Township could support this by providing space for the garden(s) similar to the Indigenous & Healing Garden at the Barrie Hall and the Butterfly Garden at the Clar-Mill Hall.
5. Invasive species.
6. Septic inspections.
7. Short-term accommodations.
8. Waste reduction (free give away days, policy against plastic bottles, re-use centre).

9. Adaptation: infrastructure changes, lake level modeling difficult, increased weather events and severity, less snow/more rain, a lot of variability
10. Emergency planning: extreme events – cooling centres/warming centres.
11. Green energy: solar farms, battery storage, IESO accepting proposals from private proponents for solar farms/wind turbines.

The Task Force noted that any initiatives have to be cost effective and or show a savings in order to motivate people and be supported.

The Task Force would like to further explore these ideas before completing the draft Terms of Reference for Council's consideration. The ideas brainstormed were incorporated into the draft Terms of Reference and will be discussed at the next meeting.

During this discussion some information was shared from other sources to provide information to focus the discussions including:

Tay Valley Township's mandate purpose: <https://www.tayvalleytwp.ca/en/municipal-government/green-energy-and-climate-change-working-group.aspx#Additional-Information>

Graph showing CO2 emissions globally:

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/global-co2-emissions-through-time-1950-2022/>

IESO information on Distributed Energy Resources:

<https://www.ieso.ca/Learn/Ontario-Electricity-Grid/Distributed-Energy-Resources>

Hydro One Low Rate Plan:

<https://www.hydroone.com/rates-and-billing/rates-and-charges/electricity-pricing-and-costs>

Township of North Frontenac's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan:

<https://www.northfrontenac.com/en/township-services/resources/Documents/Energy-Conservation-and-Demand-Management-Plan---2019-2023-Final.pdf>

Deputy Mayor Inglis has a collection of books he is willing to share if you contact him by email at john@lwl.ca including:

- 1- 'Carbon Shift'; multiple authors, edited by Thomas Homer-Dickson; 2010
- 2- 'Fire Weather- The Making of a Beast'; John Vaillant; 2023
- 3- 'Canada And Climate Change'; William Leiss; 2022
- 4- 'Between Doom and Denial- Facing Facts About Climate Change'; Andrew Leach; 2023
- 5- 'Our Final Warning- Six Degrees of Climate Emergency'; Mark Lynas; 2020
- 6- 'Angry Weather'; Freidrike Otto; 2019
- 7- 'Hothouse Earth- An Inhabitant's Guide'; Bill McGuire; 2022
- 8- 'Novacene'; James Lovelock; 2019
- 9- 'The Uninhabitable Earth- Life After Warming'; David Wallace-Wells; 2019
- 10- 'The Sixth Extinction- an Unnatural History'; Elizabeth Kolbert; 2014
- 11- 'The Great Displacement'; Jake Bittle; 2023
- 12- 'The Rare Metals War'; Guillaume Pitron; 2018

13-'Cobalt Red'; Siddharth Kara; 2023

14-'Before The Collapse- A Guide to the Other Side of Growth'; Ugo Bardi; 2020

15-'How the World Really Works'; Vacalv Smil; 2022

c) *Meeting Date Schedule*

It was the consensus of the Task Force to meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. The Secretary will circulate a schedule for the remainder of 2024 and 2025 to the members.

7. Adjournment

a) *Meeting adjourned 10:56 a.m. until September 24, 2024.*

Chair