

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Chair Jim Pickard; Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston; Cathy Reeves (community representative); and George Klosler (community representative)

Regrets: David Schell (community representative) – technical difficulties

Staff: Works Superintendent Adam Prouse, Chief Building Official Howard Leaver, Clerk Julie Middleton.

Call to Order

Mayor David Mayberry called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Howard Leaver
Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the April 2nd, 2024 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as amended.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by David Mayberry
Seconded by Howard Leaver

RESOLVED that the minutes of the February 7th, 2024 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Dereham Centre Hall Window Replacement & Insulation (hall board would like status update)

The hall board would like to know if the windows are creating the greatest heat/air loss or the windows. They would like to review the air pressure test that was completed. Howard will send it to them.

Update re: Film Plastic Waste Program

The Committee received a written update from Pamela Antonio, Supervisor of Waste Management at Oxford County. The following information was provided:

- Film plastic pilot collection program will continue until December 31st, 2025 – at which time film plastic recycling will be turned over to the producers
- County has yet to confirm what type of recycling program will be maintained for non-eligible sources – hoping to have a report for County Council later this year
- Steps of the collection process:
 - Film plastic collected at the SWOX, Tillsonburg and County depots is consolidated at the County's Waste Management Facility
 - Collected material is transported to Emterra in Burlington for bailing
 - Bailed plastic is shipped to EFS Plastics in Listowel
 - EFS converts the plastic into several different resins
 - EFS sells the resins to the market
 - Purchasers use the resins in the manufacturing process

Film Plastic statistics are part of the County's blue box tonnages:

- 2023 – 4.44 tonne
- 2022 – 3.06 tonne
- 2021 – 5.21 tonne
- 2020 – .25 tonne

The County is unsure if we should alter the current program until we know what kind of service will be provided to non-eligible sources where these services will be located.

Recommendation is to hold off on setting up any further depots. Right now, residents of South-West Oxford have four collection depots to choose from – Town of Tillsonburg Transfer Station, Dereham Centre Municipal Office, Oxford County Waste Management Facility, and the Beachville Firehall.

Adam will move the film plastic collection bin to the north side of the municipal office to see if that makes a difference with respect to the amount of garbage being deposited into the bin.

Presentation from Upper Thames River Conservation Authority – Impacts of Climate Change on Infrastructure

Cathy has been in contact with UTRCA to see if we can arrange a presentation on this topic. Cathy is going to circulate a weblink of a presentation done by Dr. Simonovic – professor at University of Western Ontario. Committee members are asked to review the presentation to determine if we would like to schedule one for the committee.

Hydro Usage – Township Facilities

The Committee discussed the current energy usage and audit progress for the Township's municipal buildings.

EV Charging Station in Mount Elgin

Julie advised that the charger is working at this time but it still not billing users. She has contacted support to get this resolved. The Mount Elgin Hall Board would like confirmation that they will be reimbursed for the hydro usage. Mayor David Mayberry will also contact Jurgen.

Findings of the Municipal Office Electrical Audit

Howard provided the committee with a written summary of the findings from the Township electrical audit recently completed for the Mount Elgin Community Centre, Township Office and Township Public Works Shop. An audit is currently being completed at the Mount Elgin Fire Hall.

Discussion took place regarding adding a switch to the large fridge at the Mount Elgin Community Centre so that it could be switched on and off when it is being used. Currently, the fridge is running all the time. The bar fridge should have a switch added as well. Howard will look into options and pricing for this.

Discussion took place regarding the benefits of ensuring that all computers are powered down each evening at the end of the work day – this is something that we can encourage staff to do. Discussion also took place regarding the use of a timer for the spare garbage truck so that it isn't running 24 hrs a day.

The Committee discussed the possibility of future framing and insulation of the walls at the Mount Elgin Community Centre, Salford Community Centre and ceiling/attic of the Municipal Office. Howard had a provider come to the Municipal Office to consider a heat

pump – however, he was advised that this would be impractical. The Committee will need to consider and get advice on the return on investment for the use of heat pumps in municipal facilities. Howard will get a quote to have one heat pump installed in Council Chamber – this may be a good location for one.

George Klosler will write up an article about his experience using a heat pump in his home to be used in an upcoming SWOX Talks.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by David Mayberry
 Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee approve the purchase of two switches to be installed at the Mount Elgin Community Centre for the two large fridges (kitchen and bar) and that this purchase be funded from the Committee’s allocated grant funding for 2024 (for the Mount Elgin Community Centre Hall Board).

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

It was noted that the cost of the two switches is not anticipated to be greater than \$150 for each switch.

Zero Waste Parks “Puppy Poop Power”

At the February meeting during roundtable discussion, it was suggested that this item be added to the next meeting agenda. The committee discussed as information. No further direction was given at this time.

Correspondence

Invitation to Mount Elgin Community Night (May 2024)

The Mount Elgin Hall Board has invited the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee to participate and showcase their work. The event will take place on Friday, May 31st from 5-7 p.m. Staff will respond on behalf of the Committee and note that the Township would like to have two tables at the event. Councillor Valerie Durston and Councillor Jim Pickard will be in attendance at the event.

Oxford County Report PW 2024-15 - 2023 Annual Waste Management Reports

The report was received as information by the Committee. South-West Oxford contamination rate was noted as being only 3.5% - this is a very good news story and

indicates that people within South-West Oxford are showing environmental responsibility by recycling properly. Councillor Pickard will prepare an article for publication – include a link to contaminants (available on County website).

Discussion Items

Future of Curbside Collection Survey

The Committee reviewed the Future of Curbside Collection Survey, circulated by Oxford County via Speak Up, Oxford. The following comments were received:

- The survey is being circulated through Township communication channels – to be shared on Facebook and to community groups. All members of the Committee are encouraged to complete the survey.
- The Committee completed the survey on behalf of the Township.

New Business

Solar Panels on the Roof of Public Works Shop and Municipal Office

Discussion took place to consider the possibility of this in the future. It may be worthwhile to ask EARTH or Arntjen for proposals (David and Adam). To be added for further discussion on the next meeting agenda.

Waste Reduction Initiative – Event Tablecloths

Julie advised that staff would like to purchase tablecloths for events (e.g., Volunteer Appreciation Events, Breakfast with the Boards) instead of purchasing disposable tablecloths to reduce waste.

Resolution No. 4 Moved by George Klosler
 Seconded by Howard Leaver

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee approve the purchase of twenty (20) black polyester tablecloths for use at upcoming Township events, banquets and shows at a cost of approximately \$200 plus HST to be funded from the Committee's allocated grant funding for 2024.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Convertus Site Visit

Works Superintendent Adam Prouse advised the committee that he was invited to visit the Convertus site on Dingman Drive south of London. He noted that contamination rate at the facility is high. This location is one option for Oxford County's waste and organic material. Organics cost \$200 a ton to dump – the material is being composted to produce an end product for use by local farmers. Adam will circulate additional information to the committee members about the facility/business.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 5 Moved by Adam Prouse
 Seconded by David Mayberry

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 6:02 p.m. to meet again on May 8th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried