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**ATTENDING**

Councillor Mercedes Brian, Bill Zimmerman, Janet Eaton, Acadia University Sustainability Coordinator Jodie Noiles, Mayor Jeff Cantwell and Recording Secretary Karen Outerleys

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

Director of Planning Devin Lake, Community Planner Jeremy Banks, Climate Change Mitigation & Energy Reduction Coordinator Omar Bhimji

**ABSENT:** Director Public Works Kevin Kerr, Howard Williams

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Councillor Brian, called the meeting to order at 1:43pm

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED.**

**CARRIED**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 6, 2019**

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2019 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**

**CARRIED**

**3. TOWN OF WOLFVILLE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION WORKPLAN**

- a. Draft Workplan Presented by Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator Omar Bhimji
- Overview was presented for comments with the draft of the workplan to be presented to Committee of the Whole the following week.
  - The workplan was divided into short term, medium term and long-term goals. The short-term goals, to be achieved over the next three months, are setting emission reduction targets and an action plan to guide the Town toward those targets, followed by the long-term implementation.
  - Current projects underway are solar panels installation on public works building roof and wastewater treatment plant upgrade.
  - A 2018 study on energy efficiency that included the town hall, library, and public works buildings will help qualify the Town for some of the efficiency and upgrade programs that Efficiency NS offers.
  - The goal for summer 2019 is to organize outreach and data collection programs with residents and businesses as well as assist the implementation of the residential energy program and targeted behaviour change.
  - Medium- and long-term goals include micro transit, a regional energy utility proposal called Kings Power, and cooperating with Acadia on an electric vehicle charging station.

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b. Discussion

- It was discussed that the wastewater treatment plant upgrade could include on-site power sources like solar and wind energy that would be financially and environmentally advantageous.
- A secondary higher dyke around the wastewater plant was advised to reduce the possibility of flooding of the plant.
- Developing a plan to approach rental owners to make improvements in their buildings, making it more economical for the tenants, was suggested. If successful, this would align with for the Town's goal of reducing greenhouse gases.
- The pesticide bylaw was discussed with suggestions for other uses of the space in front of houses, capturing CO2 by lawn plantings, and options for developers other than planting lawns.
- It was noted that some of the calculations of greenhouse gas emission inventory are extremely complex and would take a lot of time. While there are protocols for all the different emissions that can be reviewed for guidance for calculating emissions from different landscapes, it may not be worth the time required.
- Comments from public included what drew them to move to Wolfville was the environmental ethic and the continuing commitment to climate change. How can they be helpful to the Town in reaching climate change goals? Also suggested was an accessible pop-up shop/clearing house with a coffee shop atmosphere where residents can go to access information in a less formal setting than committee meetings. While there residents could access environmental information, read/talk about projects the Town is involved with, get information about self-help grants to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their homes, discuss reforestation, and so on.
- "Inspire Wolfville" is the outreach and education piece in the Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator's work plan which could include a door to door campaign to promote awareness.
- Reference to a "car free" campus was made from an article written in 2003. To clarify, this item was linked to the Acadia Campus plan to restrict vehicle traffic in the interior of the campus, moving vehicle parking to the exterior of the campus, and making the campus more pedestrian friendly. Less vehicle traffic on campus is still part of the sustainability plan, such as the bike share, car sharing, carpool parking, etc.

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#### 4. RENEWABLES

##### a. Wind

- A Draft Bylaw will be developed for review in the event residents and /or businesses inquire about wind power generation within the Town.
- Committee members expressed caution about promoting the installation of mini wind turbines. Details regarding setbacks (debris throw threat), types of turbines allowed, and health issues being too close to turbines should be considered before allowing wind turbines within Town limits.
- Allowing turbines on agricultural land could be considered in a draft bylaw/MPS as the requirements and guidelines would be very different than within Town limits.

##### b. Solar

- Public Works Building Solar Installation Update:  
As submissions have been limited, the deadline for completion of the install was extended to October 2020.
- Staff have been approached by students of Horton High School who would like a solar installation on their school. The Horton students were connected people with the Sustainable Engineering Program at NSCC who worked on the Wolfville Farmer's Market project. Solar Schools Canada (based in Halifax) is interested helping the students with the fundraising and promotional parts of this project.
- Solar Electricity for Community Buildings Pilot Program  
The program was introduced to the committee with an inquiry whether there were any candidates that should be approached that could benefit from applying to the program.

##### Eligible organizations:

- Non-profits and charities, including churches
- Municipalities and organizations owned by municipalities
- First Nation Bands
- Universities

It was noted that there are advantages for the Town and University to explore these funding opportunities as points are often given to collaborations.

#### 5. UPDATES

##### a. Town Hall for Green New Deal

- On June 19th, 2019 over 150 participants brainstormed setting of policies/ideals that had to be or that could not be included in a political platform for a Green New Deal.
  - Ideas were collected, discussed, and prioritized. A contact list to pass along future Green New Deal issues and local initiatives was created.
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**b. Municipal Energy Learning Group (MELG) meeting in Wolfville**

- On June 6th, Wolfville and Acadia University staff hosted a MELG meeting in Wolfville.
- Large turnout from across the province. Discussion included initiatives in Wolfville and pilot projects involving municipal staff in other communities.
- The website: QuestCanada.org. Their mission: To accelerate the adoption of efficient and integrated community-scale energy systems in Canada by informing, inspiring, and connecting decision-makers.

**c. Provincial Ban of Single Use Plastic bags (grocery shopping bags)**

- Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) plans to have a draft bill ready to ban single use plastic bags by the end of 2019, with the hopes of seeing a national ban on plastic bags by 2021.
- Eleven other municipalities have taken the position that they will wait to see what HRM's plan provides. Each municipal unit could coordinate their policy to provide a cohesive approach province wide.

**d. Kings Power Meeting**

- Presentation of a 100% renewables-sourced Kings County power utility, where they were in the legal process, and talked about the Town of Berwick's publicly owned electric utility.
- Kings Power could be part of a plan to meet our climate change goals and the energy shift.
- Bridgewater is reviewing the legal framework around the creation of Kings Power.
- Power from Berwick Electric currently costs 10% less than Nova Scotia Power. A publicly owned 100% renewably sourced utility would provide the lowest possible cost to consumers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Municipality of the County of Kings appears to be moving ahead with a wind/solar power utility.

**e. Acadia UPass**

- Based on consultation done over the last few years asking what transit would best serve Acadia students.
- Committee suggested that the UPass include access to a Car Share.
- Acadia has actively been exploring a car share option for Acadia that could also be open to the general public.
- The Province of Nova Scotia grant program Connect2 just released the latest version of the program and there may be some new possibilities for car share.



- The development agreement for a new building on Main Street opposite Willow Park includes the provision of two car share rentals (hourly) to the tenants.
- Turo (peer to peer) car share is an additional option
- ASU referendum rules mandate a \$500 limit on promotion. It would be beneficial to speak to the ASU to see if this has been updated
- Improvements to the Kings Transit Authority website and the introduction of the DoubleMap app, showing exactly where the bus is and when it will arrive, while useful for all transit riders, could make the service more appealing to Acadia students.
- Bus shelter improvements would encourage bus use.

**f. Environmental Summer Programming**

- Recreation program to run environmental youth programming as part of the summer camps for 2019 season. Summer staff will also do outreach and education type activities this summer.

**g. Municipal Planning Strategy Status**

- Final versions of the Municipal Planning Strategy will be delivered to council July 15, with a reading period until September, with plans to adopt the new planning documents in the fall of 2019. The new documents will be available online July 16th and sent out to all committees.

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Committee is September 16, 2019.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 4:13 pm**

**CARRIED**

**Approved at the September 2019 Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting**

**As recorded by Karen Outerleys, AA Public Works**