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**ATTENDING**

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

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

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

**ABSENT:** Director Public Works Kevin Kerr, Hannah Machat,

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair, Councillor Brian, called the meeting to order at 1:31

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMMENDED, with the addition of question period.**

**CARRIED**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2019**

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2019 MEETING BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**CARRIED**

**3. QUESTION PERIOD**

Member of the public, Chris Cann has been inundated by discussions of crisis related to environment, wondering how the TOW sustainability timelines related to the timelines available of the various crisis and whether there is any distinction being made between simply being in crisis or if the content is rational.

Staff commented that a number of these items will be covered in the agenda items.

**4. INTRODUCTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION COORDINATOR (Omar Bhimji)**

**a. Overview and Draft Workplan Presentation**

- Renamed the role TOW Climate Change (Mitigation) Coordinator
- Main focus on mitigation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all Town entities
- Basic building blocks of the position are: Data Collection, Data Analysis Target Setting, Action Plan, Activation and Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Working through the PCP milestones, to at least level 4
- Will implement the “Inspire Wolfville” campaign focused on behavior change towards climate protection
- Greenhouse gases must be reduced by about 50% by 2030

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- How can the Town frame this issue of Climate Change in a way that generates the most action and behavioral changes toward reducing GHG emissions?
  - In the long term create and build a Town that is energy efficient and where environmentally friendly activity is the norm.
  - Development of a forecast of what kinds of activities and investments and the relative cost or resources need to enable these activities and investments.
  - Reliance on partners and outside resources to achieve a lot of the work that the Town wants to do in its reduction of GHG emissions.
  - Climate Change (Mitigation) Coordinator's conception of the role of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, to provide direction and guidance, to keep the Coordinator on track, offer up committees knowledge and memory of past strategies that have been tried here and elsewhere, committee input and feedback.

**b. Discussion**

- The idea of Climate Change issue not really doing justice to the cause, where Climate Emergency, lends more strength and urgency to the topic. Recommend that the committee decide/agree we are in a climate emergency.
  - Recent research hasn't provided significant evidence that by making the problem seem greater generates more action from governments and citizens. Emergency defines the honesty of the challenge.
  - "Alberta's Narratives Project, looking at the type of language that skillfully engaged Albertans including youth on the topic of climate change that leads to solutions." The study showed that effective language needs to resonate with those who feel that climate change is important and also avoids alienating people who hold strong views on climate change and energy. Language should focus less on the immediate threat of climate change and blaming the oil and gas industry. Instead the emerging challenges of climate change, quality of life and industry issues that can be addressed were better topics for a productive discussion with Albertans. Regional differences would be expected. Messaging in the Town of Wolfville should be based on some investigation as to what would be most effective here.  
Report will be shared with the committee.
  - Committee ought to address who may be missing from the table, additional youth representative from the community beside ASU elected, member from the business community (WBDC), landlords and low-income residents (Evangeline Housing Co-op).
  - A working group is still a viable option for the committee to discuss ideas and strategies that can be brought back to the committee meetings for further discussion.
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- Keeping the meetings flexible, one item agendas, presentations from consultants and other resources may require impromptu meetings in between the quarterly meetings to keep the committee members up to date.

## 5. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION (Flood Risk)

### a. Overview Presentation

Adaptation (in the plan for 2019 & 2020). Report cards created from the Municipal Climate Change Action Plans, that include a number of adaption measures particularly related to Flood Risk.

Staff attended a workshop that discussed the Cornwallis River and the 2400 km of dykelands and the vulnerability. Time needs to be spent on finding messages that resonate with residents, a lot of the issues, moving roads, moving houses etc., around climate change can be overwhelming.

By 2050 we are talking about a meter and two metres of sea level rise. Many people feel those predictions will change, but within the Town future developments will have to meet the 4-metre flood protection buffer for construction.

Staff plans to apply for funding with the Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program to help us to bring in professional to help determine what the Towns options are regarding Flood Risk.

Educational components ideas, develop a standard plaque to show where worst case situations of high water 2050 could occur, that included a link to Towns climate action website, [www.wolfville.ca/climateaction](http://www.wolfville.ca/climateaction).

Environment Sustainability classes coming up in the fall at Acadia where students can take this plaque idea and develop it as a project.

Two education and engagement programs that are needs, one is general awareness to catch people's attention, and the action piece. Creating opportunities for individuals to take action around Climate Change.

## 6. DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- a. From April 2019 Committee of the Whole request/presentation (attached)

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“Be it resolved that Wolfville Town Council upon review and recommendation of its Environmental Committee seriously consider declaring a state of climate emergency....”

**Motion**

**The Environmental Sustainability Committee recommends that council declare a climate emergency in the Town of Wolfville.**

**CARRIED**

**7. UPDATES**

**a. Municipal Energy Learning Group (MELG) meeting in Wolfville**

Representatives from all over the province as well as additional provinces meet every few months facilitates by QUEST. Wolfville has been asked to host the next MELG meeting May/June, agenda to follow.

**b. 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.

**c. Fossil Fuel Motion and Advocacy Letters (attached)**

Letters included as information items that they have been sent. No response as of this meeting.

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

HRM passed a motion in January directing staff to work on developing very comprehensive guidelines and are working with approx. 10 other municipalities on one unified approach.

**e. Electric Car Charging Station**

Join project between Acadia and TOW, funding was secured, working through the design phase on electrical and identifying the most feasibly location for the electric station.

**f. Solar For Community Buildings Installation (tender updates)**

The project has gone out to tender for supply and installation. November is the deadline for completion to meet the funding guidelines.

**g. Kings REMO Flood Preparedness and Response Plan**

Flood Preparedness plan being presented to Committee of the Whole May 7, 2019.

**h. MPS Status**

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Final version is expected to be presented in July to the Planning Committee and Council.  
Plans to have the MPS in a formal adoption process in late 2019 early 2020 for completion.

## 8. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

- One of our committee members has taking on, as a personal initiative looking into the possibility of creating an electric utility for Kings County. Realize there are legal implications and some sort of legislature would need to come down from government to break away for Nova Scotia Power. Utility would meet local goals and not creating profits for investors (NS Power).
  - Kings County has designated a whole area suitable for wind power.
  - An informal meeting would be a jumping off point to see the level of interest that there might be with other municipal units.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Committee is August 2019

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION: IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 3:25pm**

**CARRIED**

**Approved at the June 24, 2019 Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting**

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