



ATTENDING

- Chair Councillor Mercedes Brian,
- William Zimmerman,
- Janet Eaton,
- Howard Williams,
- Jodie Noiles, Acadia University Sustainability Coordinator
- Max Abu-Laban, ASU Sustainability Officer and
- Recording Secretary Amanda Brown

ALSO ATTENDING

- Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator Omar Bhimji

LATE ARRIVAL

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

- Mayor Jeff Cantwell,

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Councillor Brian, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED CARRIED
2. Approval of Minutes	IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 MEETING BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED CARRIED
3. Public Input	No Public Input
4. New Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw	Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator, Omar Bhimji provided an update regarding Draft 3 of the Municipal Planning Strategy documents from staff. A report addressing feedback collected on Draft 3 was sent to all committee members. There was a roundtable discussion regarding next steps.

Agenda Item

Discussion and Decisions

5. Sustainable Development Goals Act

A letter was sent by the Town of Wolfville, as recommended by the Committee, to the Minister of Environment. A response from the Minister had not been received at the time of the meeting.

William Zimmerman provided an overview of the Sustainable Prosperity Act and speculated that it had been passed unanimously because voting against the Act would have seemed tantamount to voting against the environment.

There was discussion about consultation processes and study circles. Public input is critical in setting policy and study circles allow the public to give input based on reviewing evidence that is provided. They allow groups to learn about issues and discuss, someone the basis of evidence, how to reach a given goal.

6. Updates

- a) **Community climate action plan** – a spreadsheet was provided to the Committee by Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator outlining all climate action initiatives in development and currently operational.
- b) **Public Works building solar PV System** – It is projected that the panels will be installed in the spring. The Town is working AREA, a municipal corporation connected to the Town of Berwick, which has extensive experience in this type of installation.
- c) **UPass/Kings Transit** – ASU Referendum on a universal transit pass was voted down by 79% of students who voted.
- d) **PACE program** - Discussions surrounding the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program currently in development for The Town, and a feasibility study into solar gardens, which would allow all residents to buy into solar power projects. Wolfville is part of a consortium of municipalities pursuing a feasibility study. The Town of Amherst is currently participating in a pilot project by Nova Scotia Power.
- e) **GHG Inventory** – Still in progress, should be completed in early 2020.
- f) **Acadia Sustainability Initiatives**– Acadia’s fairtrade program is progressing and the certification for the year has been renewed.



Agenda Item

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Fairtrade Canada has offered to do a presentation of fairtrade program to the committee or council.

g) **Forest management strategy** – The development of an forest management strategy is part of Wolfville’s 2020 operational plan. It was suggested the NSCC should be contacted as a potential partner. Discussion about the Town developing a system to monitor the trees to determine their health.

h) **Municipal Pesticide Ban** – Discussion about the history and state of a municipal pesticide policy.

i) **Wolfville Flood Mitigation plan RFD** – It was noted the presentation was not included in the Agenda so it will be sent to members of the Committee by Climate Change Mitigation Coordinator for consideration and input.

7. Round Table Discussion

A recommendation by Max Abu-Laban, ASU Sustainability Officer was put forward regarding the Committee inviting Kody Blois to speak to the Committee before he takes office in the Near Year.

Discussion about 5G and smart meters, their utility in reducing energy use and whether there are any health impacts related to the technology or the devices. There is a public meeting taking place on November 21st regarding same. The Committee would like to have a presenter attend a future meeting to provide details.

A provincial plastic ban has been announced and is in the works.

Discussion about whether meetings for the Committee should be every 2 or 3 months.

8. Next Meeting

TBD

9. Adjourned

IT WAS REGULARLY MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 4:47 p.m.

CARRIED

As recorded by Amanda Brown, Administrative Services, Office of the CAO.