

## REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

***Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.***

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Chair Jim Pickard, Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston;  
Works Superintendent Adam Prouse; David Schell (community  
representative); and Cathy Reeves (community representative)

Regrets: George Klosler (community representative)

Staff: Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk Julie Middleton

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### **Call to Order**

Chair Jim Pickard 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 David Schell  
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as  
amended (donation and litter day).

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

### **Minutes**

Resolution No. 2 Moved by David Mayberry  
Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the minutes of the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting  
Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be  
reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### Review of Discussion Items, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes

#### Beachville Solar Panels

At the April 1 Meeting, Council approved installing additional solar modules at the Beachville Fire Station. The modules have been installed.

#### Consider Heat Pump at Mount Elgin Community Centre

Facilities Maintenance Technician Darryl Nutt is obtaining quotes to consider this initiative.

#### Electrical Audit Updates – Foldens, Salford and Beachville Museum

The Committee reviewed the energy audit for the Salford Community Hall and noted the following:

- The Committee asked if Chief Building Official Brad Smale will look at the vent in the kitchen of the Salford Community Centre – there is cold air coming from it. Julie will follow up with Brad.
- Staff to follow up with Tim Smith to see if there is anything that seems out of line from the energy audit at the Salford Community Centre. Why are there two water pumps?
- Valerie to share the report with the hall board.
- Consider if the second fridge needs to be plugged in all the time – Valerie to discuss with the hall board.

Darryl has advised that the energy audit for the Beachville Museum won't be completed for a few weeks – he is hoping to receive the quotes for the Mount Elgin boiler system/heat pump replacement this month.

#### Dereham Centre Hall Roof Repair

The Hall Board is reviewing quotes for this project and will select a contractor to complete this project. The roof insulation will be completed once the roof repairs are complete. Julie to follow up with them to find out status of these projects.

## **Correspondence**

### **Council Report: TR 04-2025 – Solar Panel Project Salford Community Centre – 2024 Activity**

The Committee reviewed the Council report as information. Councillor Valerie Durston shared the information with the Salford Hall Board.

### **Proposed Amendments to the Endangered Species Act (Dave Schell)**

Dave Schell referenced a recent article about Ontario's Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*, introduced by Doug Ford's government on April 17. The Bill repeals the existing Endangered Species Act and replaces it with a significantly weakened version. It enables rapid approvals for development projects, bypassing thorough risk and environmental assessments.

Cabinet is granted authority to define key terms such as "advertisement" and "alternative habitat," potentially broadening their interpretations. Developers may begin work after submitting a simple online registration, without undergoing formal review.

Public comments on the Bill are open until May 17<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Julie Middleton will add the article to the Consent Agenda for the May 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

## **Discussion Items**

### **Tree Planting Program – Strategic Direction**

Staff reported that 75 trees were planted by the Township so far this year, with additional plantings planned for the fall. It was noted that the Township budgets annually for tree planting initiatives.

The Committee discussed opportunities to further naturalize Township spaces, including the development of meadows and butterfly gardens in addition to tree planting efforts. Adam Prouse advised that initiatives at the Township Halls and Township parks are committee-driven.

The Committee also discussed tree planting at Peace Park and commented on the possible addition of volleyball courts at Peace Park.

## **New Business**

### **Donation Request from the Committee – SWOX Township Fare Event**

The Committee discussed participation in the upcoming SWOX Township Fare on Saturday, May 24, 2025. The Environment and Energy Innovation Committee will be

sharing a table with the Engage and Inform Committee. As part of the event, the Committee proposed offering a prize draw for individuals who sign up for the Township's eNewsletter at the shared table. Direction was provided to staff to determine an appropriate prize for the event.

#### Participation in Provincial Act on Litter Day

Councillor Durston inquired whether the Committee would be interested in participating in Provincial Act on Litter Day in future years. The tentative date for the 2026 event is the last Tuesday in April. The Committee expressed interest in participating and suggested inviting the Environment Committee members to take part as well.

#### **Adjournment**

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

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:39 p.m. to meet again on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried