

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 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); David Schell (community representative); and George Klosler (community representative)

Regrets: None

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

Guests: None

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 Mayberry
Seconded by Cathy Reeves

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the November 8th, 2023 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the October 4th, 2023 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Energy Audit

The Committee reviewed hydro consumption for the Municipal Office, Dereham Centre Shop, Brownsville Community Centre, Mount Elgin Community Centre and Fire Stations (Beachville, Brownsville and Mount Elgin). Julie will ask Adam if he knows why the hydro usage dropped so much in April/May, 2023. The Committee asked to keep this on the table and bring it back to their meeting in January.

Electrical audit has been completed for Mount Elgin Hall – the data is being compiled. The municipal office will be audited next.

The Committee questioned what the black (electric) lines are on the table in the Beachville Fire Hall ERTB bills. David will follow up with ERTB.

Insulation of Mount Elgin Hall Ceiling (Impact on Rental Income)

George Klosler expressed his concerns regarding the length of time the hall would be out of commission and the resulting impact on rental income. It was noted that the Township is paying the cost from the Energy Reserves. The work will take a total of four days during the week.

2024 Brainstorming – Projects and Priorities

The Committee discussed the following projects proposed at the previous meeting:

- Purchase of electric pick-up truck (potentially in 2025);
- Promotion of the Committee's energy efficiency grants (among Township Hall and Park Boards);
- Municipal Office – Air source heat pump (Howard will follow up on pricing), LED lighting;
- Tree Planting – property owners in Pigram Line would be interested in planting trees (near 401 tunnel);
- Expansion of film plastic waste pick up locations in the Township (i.e., municipal office with a larger sign and Tommy Williams Park – Jim commented that this would be a great location to try). Julie will follow up with Adam about this to start in the Spring, 2024; and
- Recycling pick-up for Red Dragon Dairy (they are recycling already) and Tillsonburg Airport (concern re: having to put recycling at the road – they want Township to go into the property to pick it up).

Resolution No. 3 Moved by Howard Leaver
 Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee provide direction to staff to prepare another film plastic recycling bin/drop off location and necessary signage to be used at the Tommy Williams Park in Sweaburg.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

The Committee discussed obtaining information from local conservation authorities regarding tree planting programs, and communicating this information through Township communication channels. Julie will contact Councillor Ypma, Councillor Buchner and Councillor Way to find out more in relation to what is available and who to contact to get more details.

Discussion also took place about having further discussions in relation to wider culverts as they are being replaced – something to consider going into 2024 pending comments from Works Superintendent Adam Prouse.

Discussion Items

Dereham Centre Hall – Commercial Dishwasher Grant

Councillor Pete Ypma, on behalf of the Dereham Centre Hall Board, contacted staff to advise that they would like to proceed with the previously discussed grant for a new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen. The dishwasher purchased is a STERO Canada Model# SUH-1 and the cost was \$5,900 plus HST for the unit (cost includes delivery and set up). The hall board purchased additional racks and dish chemicals for the unit. It was delivered on July 26, 2023. A spec sheet for the unit was provided for the Committee's review. It was noted that this unit will assist in renters using less single-use disposable kitchen wears (such as plates, utensils, serving ware, etc.).

Resolution No. 4 Moved by David Mayberry
 Seconded by Howard Leaver

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend that Council approves transferring \$1,000 from the Climate Change Reserve to cover part of the cost of the installation of a new commercial dishwasher at the Dereham Centre Hall.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Mount Elgin Hall – Grant Request – Window Caulking

The Committee received a grant request from the Mount Elgin Hall Board for the cost of caulking the exterior windows, new exterior door sweep, weather stripping and adjusting the door sill plate at the Mount Elgin Library. The cost to complete these repairs will be approximately \$1,250.00 HST.

Resolution No. 5 Moved by Valerie Durston
 Seconded by George Klosler

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend that Council approves transferring \$1,000 from the Climate Change Reserve to cover part of the cost of the caulking the exterior windows, new exterior door sweep, weather stripping and adjusting the door sill plate at the Mount Elgin Library.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Salford Hall – Grant Request – Solar LED Light

The Salford Hall Board is requesting a grant for the supply and installation of a solar LED dust to dawn street light at the cost of \$1,120.00 HST

Resolution No. 6 Moved by David Mayberry
 Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend that Council approves transferring \$1,000 from the Climate Change Reserve to cover part of the cost of the supply and installation of a solar LED dust to dawn street light at the Salford Hall.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

MTO's Electric Vehicle ChargeON Program

Julie will follow up with Brooke regarding payment for the EV charging stations at the Mount Elgin Community Centre. The Committee questioned if this being added to the Hall's hydro bill and consumption.

The Committee reviewed information from the Ministry of Transportation regarding their new Electric Vehicle ChargeON program, to which they strongly encourage the

Township to apply. EV ChargeON is a competitive, application-based funding program that invites eligible municipalities in Ontario to put forward project proposals that help enhance accessibility and availability of EV charging infrastructure throughout the province, tackle range anxiety and make long-distance EV travel easier. Municipalities with populations under 170,000 are eligible to receive up to 75% of total project costs. Applications close at 5:00 p.m. on January 31st, 2024. MTO are offering webinars to provide more information and answer questions regarding completing and submitting applications – the next session takes place November 30, 2023. David will ask Arntjen Solar if they are applying for this round of funding (Salford Hall and Dereham Hall for potential consideration) and if there is a software program that we can download to track usage.

CBC News Article – re: Why oil and gas heating bans for new homes are a growing trend

The Committee discussed this news article regarding how Vancouver and Quebec recently banned certain kinds of fossil-fuel based heating in new home construction. The goal is to cut CO2 emissions from buildings by replacing fossil fuel burning with electric heating.

Hall Pressure Tests

The Committee discussed the hall pressure tests that were previously completed at Township facilities, this was brought up at yesterday’s Council Meeting. The Dereham Centre Hall will be looking to update their windows and noted that the leaking air in the building is a result of the walls and not the windows (but they still need to be fixed or replaced as they do not open). Council questioned if there are any recommendations for work to be done as a result of these pressure tests?

The Committee discussed the possibility of finding what insulation is in the walls at the hall before replacing windows. It was suggested that this be discussed with the hall board.

Resolution No. 7 Moved by David Mayberry
 Seconded by Howard Leaver

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend that Council approach the Dereham Centre Hall Board to have exploratory work done to see what insulation is in the walls and attic at the and to obtain an estimate to stud the walls, spray foam and drywall.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Correspondence - None

New Business - None

Adjournment

Resolution No. 8 Moved by David Schell
 Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:56 p.m. to meet again on December 6th, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried