

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston; Works Superintendent Adam Prouse; David Schell (community representative); George Klosler (community representative – virtual via Zoom); and Cathy Reeves (community representative)

Regrets: Chair Jim Pickard

Staff: Clerk's Assistant/Records Management Co-ordinator Nicole Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Mayberry 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 Cathy Reeves
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the March 5th, 2025 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as amended (2019-2024 Energy Report – All Facilities).

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by David Schell
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the minutes of the February 5th, 2025 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

Discussion on the motion: David Schell noted that the Peace Park is being refurbished by the Parks and Recreation Committee and Lions Club. He questioned if it is possible to have some new trees planted at the top of the toboggan hill. Adam Prouse requested that the Chair send him an email with how many are required and where

they would like to be planted and the Works Department can take care of planting. Adam noted that due to the location, the Township would be unable to provide watering like they do for roadside plantings.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

**George Klosler joined the meeting virtually at 4:33 p.m.*

Business Arising from the Minutes

Electrical Audit Updates – Foldens, Salford and Beachville Museum

Adam noted that the electrical audit for Salford is currently being completed, Beachville Museum will be next followed by Foldens Hall. Adam and Darryl spoke with the Beachville Museum Curator who noted an increase in their hydro usage.

Energy Consumption Reports

The Committee reviewed the monthly data provided for the Mount Elgin Community Centre as well as a summary of the usage at the Salford Community Centre and provided the following comments:

- Discussion regarding the potential future replacement of the gas boiler at the Mount Elgin Community Centre – consideration should be given to replace with heat pump technology (air source). Darryl to obtain quotes.
- Salford Hall energy usage fairly consistent.
- Valerie noted that in the kitchen by the stove, there is cold air coming in from the upper vent – Adam will ask Evan Swance to look into this.
- It was noted that the insulation projects and other renovations have helped to reduce energy consumption at the Salford Hall.

Correspondence

[UTRCA – Upper Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Program](#)

The Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Program is a new four-year program that offers incentives for cover crops, reducing tillage, 4R practices, manure management, as well as cost-share rates for a variety of practices. Incentive payment categories can be stacked. Eligible projects include:

- Cover Crops
- Reduced Tillage

- Subsurface Phosphorus Placement
- Soil Testing and Nutrient Planning
- Erosion Control
- Livestock Watercourse Fencing
- Clean Water Diversion
- Innovative Actions
- Forestry and Tree Planting

The Committee requested that this be shared in the April SWOX Talks and Village Voice publications.

Discussion Items

Follow Up from Round Table Discussion (February 2024):

Item	Status
Electrical audit at the Public Works Shop	Complete
Fans for Public Works Shop	Not proceeding: cost prohibitive
Consider air source heat pumps at other facilities	Considering Mount Elgin
Electric options for Township fleet	Exploring options wherever possible
Encourage purchase of electric school busses	Lang's busses replacing with electric
Replace all lights with LED	Swapping with LED as we replace
Monthly comparison for Mount Elgin Hall	Complete
Zero Waste Parks	Hall and Park Board initiative
Explore options for ice removal (pickle juice)	Not proceeding at this time
Province amending endangered species act	No update
Tree planting	Works Dept will continue this – contact Adam with specific requests (Adam to email all Councillors – Nicole will send to all Board Chairs)
Soil erosion – public education re: fence rows	Send communication material to Nicole
Consider making culverts larger	No change at this time – Adam noted that the Township builds to a certain design standard for municipal drains, cost for oversized culverts will be additional. Discussion on implications of increasing co-efficient may need to take place with an engineer to move this forward. Nicole to inquire with Daniel re: raising the co-efficient for municipal drains.

Consider review and update of servicing standards	Falls in line with above
Consider use of red wriggler worms	Not proceeding at this time
New net zero municipal office/child care facility	Staff will be exploring this in 2025 – committee will be consulted on this moving forward. Cathy recommended that Council tour LEAD buildings to get an idea of what to consider moving forward. Committee to discuss green roof vs. solar panel roof vs. community gardens.
Public education and awareness	Communication is ongoing
Organic waste collection implementation	Will commence Jan, 2026
Flood risk forecasting model	Staff work with Conservation Authorities for municipal drainage projects (best practices)

Standing Items

New Business

2019-2024 Energy Report – All Facilities

The Committee discussed the energy report data for all facilities for 2019-2024 and provided the following comments:

- Adam noted that the reduction in GHG emissions was a good news story
- Noted that the natural gas number is the ekWh equivalent
- Climate control unit at Beachville Museum may be causing hydro increase
- Nicole to ask Julie if extra solar panels have been installed at the Beachville Fire Station.
- Adam hasn't heard back from EPCOR regarding a potential natural gas line for filling vehicles
- George has provided bio-fuel data to Adam – didn't seem like there were any depots close enough that we could count on to utilize

Resolution No. 3 Moved by David Schell
 Seconded by Valerie

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Committee provide the Facilities GHG Emissions Report to Council for information.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Adjournment

Resolution No. 4 Moved by Adam Prouse
 Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:38 p.m. to meet again on May 7th, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried