



GREEN ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MINUTES

**Friday, June 3rd, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Deputy Reeve Barrie Crampton
Councillor Rob Rainer
Bob Argue
Jennifer Dickson
Douglas Barr

Members Absent: David Poch
Peter Nelson

Staff Present: Noelle Reeve, Planner
Allison Playfair, Planning Administrative Assistant,
Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.
A quorum was present.

2. AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- i) Addition Under New/Other Business: Support for City of Cambridge Resolution for the Ontario Building Code to Contain More Stringent Energy Efficiency Requirements.
- ii) Addition Under New/Other Business: Lanark County Meeting with VIA Rail.

The agenda was approved as amended

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

i) **Minutes – April 8th, 2022**

The minutes of the Green Energy and Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on April 8th, 2022, were approved as presented.

5. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. BUSINESS

i) **Climate Action Plan**

- **Official Plan Update 2022 - Climate Change and Climate Report Card**

The Planner thanked the Working Group for their comments on the Climate Change Report Card. The Report Card will be discussed by Committee of the Whole on June 7, 2022. The Planner will let the Working Group know if the Committee suggests any changes.

The Planner noted that the draft Official Plan has been posted on the website and it contains an expanded section on climate change. The Working Group recommended that Council consider its submission to the draft Official Plan to be the following:

Include guiding principles in the Official Plan similar to Lanark County's:

- Tay Valley Township will eliminate fossil fuel use;
- Tay Valley Township will maximize energy efficiencies and increase renewable energy generation;
- Tay Valley Township will reduce waste organic material;
- Tay Valley Township will sequester carbon and protect natural resources

The Working Group also suggested that the new section on Emergency Management required by the Provincial Policy Statement include reference to the need to prepare for emergencies arising from a changing climate (e.g., flooding, derecho wind storms, heat domes, etc.)

The Planner invited Working Group members to the upcoming Open Houses on June 9, 2022 in person and June 14, 2022 virtually with an in-person

Public Meeting on June 21, 2022. Comments will be taken at any time by emailing the Planner.

- **Natural Asset Management Plan Training**

The Planner advised the Working Group that the Municipal Natural Asset Initiative (MNAI) was offering training for ten municipalities across Canada and Tay Valley Township was one of the ten. The outcome of the training will be a roadmap of how to include the Township's Natural Assets in the Township's Asset Management Plan.

This training will be starting in June 2022 and running through July 2022. Staff participants will include the Treasurer, Public Works Manager, Acting CAO/Clerk and the Planner. A report on this project can be seen on the June 7, 2022 Committee of the Whole agenda.

- **Home Energy Retrofit Funding Project**

The Planner noted this report updating Council on the Home Energy Retrofit Loan program will also be on the Committee of the Whole package for June 7, 2022.

In November 2020, Tay Valley Council directed staff to participate in a seven-municipality pilot with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Clean Air Partnership, and Heating Refrigeration Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) to develop a deep home energy retrofit grant and loan program for Tay Valley residents as part of meeting the Township's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction goals for community emissions.

It was noted that the timeline would be to bring a Local Improvement Charges By-Law to Council in August or September of 2022 and to submit an application to apply for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding for the project in December of 2022. The background report for this project can be seen on the June 7, 2022 Committee of the Whole agenda.

ii) **Communications**

- **Lanark County Climate Change Committee Update – Bob Argue**

Bob Argue explained to the Working Group that the Lanark County Climate Change Committee priorities were divided into two tables, one for the Community and one for Corporate actions. (The tables can be viewed at the links below.) It was noted that item number 14 in the Corporate Table, the Climate Lens Tool, is a priority and that training for County staff and Council is expected to be completed by the end of June 2022.

[Climate Action Priorities.xlsx \(civicweb.net\)](#)

7. NEW AND OTHER BUSINESS

i) **Support for City of Cambridge Resolution for the Ontario Building Code to Contain More Stringent Energy Efficiency Requirements – *attached page 7.***

The Planner explained to the Working Group that at a special meeting on May 31, 2022, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed a motion to encourage the Province of Ontario to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets of 30% by 2030. The motion recognizes that emissions from buildings represented 22% of the province's 2017 emissions. The motion calls on the Province of Ontario to include more stringent energy efficiency standards in the next edition of the Ontario Building Code and to encourage municipalities to adopt their own Green Development Standards.

The Planner asked if the Working Group would like to ask Council to support this resolution by the City of Cambridge.

The Working Group suggested that Tay Valley Township draft its own resolution for inclusion in the Agenda for the Council meeting in August when the Working Group and Council will have time to absorb the information, rather than the item being pulled from the Communication package at the end of what could be a long last meeting before the July break.

The Working Group also suggested that Tay Valley's resolution be sent to all area municipalities and Lanark County to gain their resolution of support.

iii) **Lanark County Meeting with VIA Rail.**

Deputy Reeve, Barrie Crampton, wanted to let the Working Group know that he and the Planner registered for a meeting to discuss the VIA rail proposal for an electric train through Brooke Valley in the Township. He noted that the Planner provided a large amount of input about our area as well as groups to contact and that she also raised questions about how impacts on landowners' properties, wildlife, noise, the local Indigenous communities etc., would be mitigated. VIA rail is focusing on stakeholder consultation and said we are a stakeholder. VIA explained the train was going to be electrified and the track would recharge the electric locomotive and therefore it would be less noisy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Deputy Reeve asked the Planner to follow up with VIA on her assertion that the Environmental Assessment would need to consider the implications for greenhouse gases of using Ontario electricity (generated by natural gas plants) versus using Quebec electricity (generated by water power).

It was also noted that County of Lanark CAO, Kurt Greaves, suggested double tracking the existing system rather than going through Brooke Valley. However, this would require new right of way acquisition.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: TBD

9. DEFERRED ITEMS

**The following items will be discussed at the next and/or future meeting:*

- None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Working Group adjourned at 11:14 a.m.


Chair


Secretary

BUSINESS



The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
The City of Cambridge
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June 1, 2022

Re: Motion from Councillor Liggett – Ontario Must Build it Right the First Time

At the Special Council Meeting of May 31, 2022, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 30% by 2030, and emissions from buildings represented 22% of the province's 2017 emissions,

WHEREAS all Waterloo Region municipalities, including the City of Cambridge, adopted greenhouse gas reduction targets of 80% below 2012 levels by 2050 and endorsed in principle a 50% reduction by 2030 interim target with the support of bold and immediate provincial and federal actions,

WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions from buildings represent 45% of all emissions in Waterloo Region, and an important strategy in the TransformWR community climate action strategy, adopted by all Councils in Waterloo Region, targets new buildings to be net-zero carbon or able to transition to net-zero carbon using region-wide building standards and building capacity and expertise of building operators, property managers, and in the design and construction sector,

WHEREAS the draft National Model Building Code proposes energy performance tiers for new buildings and a pathway to requiring net zero ready construction in new buildings, allowing the building industry, skilled trades, and suppliers to adapt on a predictable and reasonable timeline while encouraging innovation;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing consulted on changes for the next edition of the Ontario Building Code (ERO #: 019-4974) that generally aligns with the draft National Model Building Code except it does not propose adopting energy performance tiers, it does not propose timelines for increasing minimum energy performance standards step-by-



step to the highest energy performance tier, and, according to Efficiency Canada and The Atmospheric Fund, it proposes adopting minimum energy performance standards that do not materially improve on the requirements in the current Ontario Building code;

WHEREAS energy efficient buildings provide owners and occupants with lower energy bills, improved building comfort, and resilience from power disruptions that are expected to be more common in a changing climate, tackling both inequality and energy poverty;

WHEREAS the City of Cambridge in partnership with area municipalities and utility companies in the Region of Waterloo are actively exploring developing Green Building Standards;

WHEREAS while expensive retrofits of the current building stock to achieve future net zero requirements could be aligned with end-of-life replacement cycles to be more cost-efficient, new buildings that are not constructed to be net zero ready will require substantial retrofits before end-of-life replacement cycles at significantly more cost, making it more cost-efficient to build it right the first time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to include in the next edition of the Ontario Building Code tiered energy efficiency standards and a timeframe for when higher tiers would become the minimum energy efficiency requirements in the Code, consistent with the draft Tiered National Model Building Code;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to adopt a more ambitious tier of the draft Tiered National Model Building Code as a minimum energy efficiency requirement than the tiers currently proposed for the next edition of the Ontario Building Code;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario provide authority to municipalities to require increased performance in energy efficiency through the implementation of tiered Green Development Standards;

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario to facilitate capacity, education and training in the implementation of the Tiered National Model Building Code for municipal planning and building inspection staff, developers, and homebuilders to help build capacity; and

AND FUTHER THAT this resolution be provided to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to area MPPs, and to all Ontario Municipalities.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.



Yours Truly,

Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)
Hon. Premier Ford
Ontario Minister of Health, Christine Elliot
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
City of Cambridge Council