



Essex Climate Adaptation Team Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 19th, 2020

Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Kim Verbeek

Amandeep Hans

Andrea Descargar

Dan Metcalfe

Gina Pannunzio

Maddie Peters

Matthew Child

Megan Balsillie

Kelsey Amlin

William Baker

Brian Lennie

Brandi Bechard

Brian Hyland

Also Present: Niharika Bandaru, Climate Change Analyst

Claire Sanders, Climate Change Specialist, ERCA

Jeff Watson, Planner, Planning Services

Corinne Chiasson, Assistant Planner, Planning Services

Sarah Aubin, Planning Assistant, Recording Secretary

Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services

Lori Chadwick, Director of Development Services

Regrets: Tyler Oglan

Members of the Public: Cameron Fioret

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Adoption of Published Agenda

Moved by: Dan Metcalfe

Seconded by: Gina Pannunzio

(ECAT 2020-08-12) That the August 19th, 2020 Essex Climate Adaptation Team Agenda be adopted as presented.

“Carried”

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Brian Lennie

Seconded by: Kelsey Amlin

(ECAT 2020-08-13) That the July 14th, 2020 Essex Climate Adaptation Team minutes be adopted as presented.

“Carried”

5. New Discussions

a. Vision Statement Update

Niharika Bandaru, Chair, reviews the revised Vision Statement with the members.

“The Town of Essex will adapt to changing climate conditions and embrace new opportunities **for a** healthy, vibrant, and sustainable community **benefiting** residents, businesses and visitors”

b. Objectives Presentation and Discussion

Niharika reminds the members of the Objectives options for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and states that the feedback provided by the members, through a feedback form previously, sparked revisions to each option of the Objectives.

The members discuss and review the revised options.

Moved by: Matthew Child

Seconded by: Amandeep Hans

(ECAT 2020-08-14) That the following objectives for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan be adopted as recommendations to Administration as presented.

Committee to approve Objectives for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan:

Community Objective 1:

Support the enhancement of community health, safety, and quality of life

Community Objective 2:

Help preserve natural assets and support the adoption of nature-based solutions

Community Objective 3:

Minimize risk to built infrastructure and property

Community Objective 4:

Support opportunities for investment into adaptation-based innovation, technology, and economic development

Community Objective 5:

Help improve, enhance, and secure resources for emergency preparedness

Community Objective 6:

Promote engagement and participation in climate change awareness and adaptation opportunities.

“Carried”

c. Present Risk Prioritization Results

I. High Priority Impacts

Niharika Bandaru, Chair discusses Risk Prioritization and reviews with the members the High, Medium and Low impacts.

II. Role of Municipality (Mitigation vs Adaptation)

Claire Sanders, Essex Region Conservation Authority presents a presentation to the members regarding mitigation vs adaptation.

d. Action Items to accompany determined Objectives; Committee Activity

Niharika Bandaru, Chair advises the members that they will be broken up into three groups in breakout rooms. She states that each group will have two (2) objectives to review and discuss for 30 minutes.

Group 1:

Objective 1: Support the enhancement of community health, safety and quality of life

Objective 2: Help preserve natural assets and support the adoption of nature-based solutions.

Hosted by Corinne Chiasson

Gina Pannunzio

Matthew Child

Amandeep Hans

Brandi Bechard

Rita Jabbour

Corinne Chiasson provides a summary of Group 1 discussion. She states they reviewed the Risk Prioritization Chart and discussed Objective 1 in great detail. The members stated that creating a campaign that partners with the health unit would assist with communicating with the community and different municipalities by putting out heat alerts via text and website alerts. She continues to state that they discussed COVID-19 and how emergency situations can hit one community but possibly not the next. She advises that within a heat wave should one cooling centre go down within the Town of Essex, we could partner with a neighbouring municipality and utilize their cooling centre. She states ensuring a contingency plan would suffice for Objective 1 to ensure we continue to provide safety and quality of life for our residence.

She provides a summary of Objective 2. She states that the Town of Essex has stakeholders in the region such as the Essex Region Conservation Authority. She states that

the Town review their stakeholders and look at how to educate the community and provide full services to our residences and getting stakeholders involved in the education process to support our natural assets within the community.

Group 2:

Objective 3: Minimize risk to built infrastructure and property

Objective 4: Support opportunities for investment into adaptation-based innovation, technology, and economic development

Hosted by: Jeff Watson

William Baker

Brian Lennie

Brian Hyland

Andrea Descargar

Claire Sanders

Jeff Watson provides a summary of Group 2 discussion. He advises that when discussing Objective 3 the members stated that the Town should seek solutions and guidance from private businesses or government agencies such as OMAFRA, and those that are addressing climate issues. He continues to state that a solution could be faster permitting processing for infrastructure mitigation projects. He states that the Town should look at providing adequate drainage for roads, so that farms and businesses can move their products during heavy rainfalls.

He continues on to state that the members discussed Objective 4 and stated that the Town could expand the Community Improvement Plan program and provide grants to businesses for climate impact solutions. He states that the grants can also be provided to Incubator businesses that provide a climate solutions. He states a discussion and feedback from businesses such as E.L.K on what they are doing with regards to Climate Adaptation and provide that information to the community, farmers, and businesses within the Town of Essex. He states that the Town could review and know our task that are required during a climate disaster and be prepared to act when higher levels of government ask us to act.

Group 3:

Objective 5: Help improve, enhance, and secure resources for emergency preparedness and response

Objective 6: Promote engagement and participation in climate change awareness and adaptation opportunities.

Hosted by: Niharika Bandaru

Kelsey Amlin

Megan Balsillie

Maddie Peters

Dan Metcalfe

Kim Verbeek, Councillor

Niharika Bandaru provides a summary of Group 3 discussion. She states that the members discussed Objective 5 and stated that currently the County has demonstrated a well-balanced emergency preparedness plan with regards to fire week. She states that on a municipal level we need to prepare the residents and provide information regarding flooding, pet shelters, cooling and warming centres and where evacuation centres are placed at within the community. She states that the Town needs to get people engaged by having people take ownership, but how can we do this? She states that a contest through students can be done to provide awareness. Family activity weeks where they participate and a prize can be won for participating. She continues to states that the Town can prepare a registry system for those who would like to volunteer during catastrophic events. She also states that a registry for those who would like to be checked upon. She continues to state that these method of interaction should be done through many platforms such as websites, text, phone calls.

She advises that the members stated regarding Objective 6 that the Town should encourage participation in natural spaces, such as community gardens. She continues to state that multiple projects within a surplus lot such as Colchester school house can be achieved with community gardens and composting centre.

e. Questions and Comments

None

6. Delegations

None

7. Future Meetings

a. Essex Climate Adaptation Team Meeting October 2020

October 7th, 2020 at 6 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by: Kim Verbeek, Councillor

Seconded by: Matthew Child

(ECAT 2020-08-15) That the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

“Carried”

Chair

Recording Secretary