



## Report to Council

Department: Office of the CAO  
Division: Legal and Legislative Services  
Date: February 18, 2020  
Prepared by: Rob Auger, Town Solicitor/Clerk  
Report Number: Legal and Legislative Services-2020-04  
Subject: Essex Striking Committee – Essex Climate Adaptation Team  
Number of Pages: 8, including attachment

### Recommendation(s)

**That** “Legal and Legislative Services-2020-04” entitled “Report on behalf of the Town of Essex Striking Committee – Essex Climate Adaptation Team prepared by Rob Auger, Town Solicitor/Clerk dated February 18, 2020 be received; and

**That** Council approve the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee of Council to be known as the Essex Climate Adaptation Team (“ECAT”) be approved; and

**That** the proposed Essex Climate Adaptation Team Terms of Reference be approved and adopted; and

That Council approve the report and recommendations of the Town of Essex Striking Committee and appoint the following individuals as the members of the Essex Climate Adaptation Team:

1. Dan Metcalfe
2. Brandi Bechard

3. Brian Hyland
4. Matthew Child
5. Kelsey Amlin
6. Brian Lennie
7. Amandeep Hans
8. Andrea Descargar
9. Maddie Peters
10. Tyler Oglan
11. Gina Pannunzio
12. Megan Balsillie; and

**That** Council appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as the Council member to sit on the Essex Climate Adaptation Team.

## **Purpose**

To approve the creation and appointment of a new Ad-hoc Committee of Council to assist Administration as a part of the process towards the creation of a proposed Climate Change Adaption Plan.

## **Background and Discussion**

At its regular meeting of November 18, 2019, Council gave direction to Administration to implement the process leading to the creation of a proposed Climate Change Adaptation Plan. The process includes 4 phases; Phase 1: Assessing Climate Impacts, Phase 2: Adaptation Planning, Phase 3: Approval and Funding, and Phase 4: Implementation. Phase 1 is currently in progress and includes engaging internal and external community stakeholders to draw expertise from and to advise on solutions to various risks posed by climate impacts to the Town of Essex. It is proposed that the external stakeholders be engaged through an organized committee called the "Essex Climate Adaptation Team (ECAT)". The ECAT will

advise the Internal Climate Adaptation Team (an internal working group consisting of representation from relevant divisions of the Town of Essex) on improving adaptation, reducing vulnerability, enhancing community resilience, protecting resources and infrastructure, and identifying economic cost-savings and opportunities related to the local impacts of climate change.

Ad-Hoc Committees of Council are created to perform a specific task and are dissolved when the task is completed. The Committee has no authority for decision making or independent actions. Members are appointment by Council and membership typically includes one member of Council as a liaison.

Given that the proposed Terms of reference for the ECAT (see attached Schedule "A" to this report) provide for the formation of the ECAT to perform a specific purpose or task for a specific duration and given that the membership is to include one member of Council as liaison it is proposed that the ECAT be created as a Ad-Hoc Committee of Council.

On January 6, 2020, a call for applications was released by the Town of Essex, requesting interested citizens and stakeholder groups to apply by January 31, 2020 to be volunteer members on the ECAT by submitting a Volunteer Application Form. The ECAT is intended to be an ad-hoc committee of Council with thirteen members including one Councillor.

On February 10, 2020, Administration presented to the Town of Essex Striking Committee the applications that were received and the criteria that was used to assess the applications that were received. Accordingly the Striking Committee at its February 10, 2020 meeting recommended to Council that the following individuals be appointed to the ECAT:

1. Dan Metcalfe
2. Brandi Bechard
3. Brian Hyland
4. Matthew Child
5. Kelsey Amlin

6. Brian Lennie
7. Amandeep Hans
8. Andrea Descargar
9. Maddie Peters
10. Tyler Oglan
11. Gina Pannunzio
12. Megan Balsillie

Recommended individuals represent sectors including agriculture, health, infrastructure, land management, water quality, transport, emergency management, energy, waste management, and a youth representative.

Further, at its February 10, 2020, meeting the Striking Committee decided to defer to Council the selection of the Council member appointment to the ECAT.

## **Financial Impact**

None

## **Consultations**

n/a

## **Link to Strategic Priorities**

- ☒ Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- ☐ Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- ☐ Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- ☐ Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- ☒ Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.