



Essex Climate Adaptation Team Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Shaheen Room, Essex Centre Sports Complex

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Kim Verbeek

Amandeep Hans

Andrea Descargar

Brandi Bechard

Brian Hyland

Brian Lennie

Dan Metcalfe

Gina Pannuzio

Kelsey Amlin

Maddie Peters

Matthew Child

Megan Balsillie

Tyler Oglan

William Baker

Also Present: Niharika Bandaru, Climate Change Analyst

Jeff Watson, Planner, Planning Services

Corinne Chiasson, Assistant Planner, Planning Services

Sarah Aubin, Planning Assistant, Planning Services

Rita Jabbour, Manager, Planning Services

Lori Chadwick, Director, Development Services

Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk

Alex Denonville, Manager, Communications

Claire Sanders, Climate Change Specialist, ERCA

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None

3. Adoption of Published Agenda

Moved by: Brian Hyland

Seconded by: Councillor, Kim Verbeek

(ECAT 2020-03-01) That the March 5, 2020 Essex Climate Adaptation Team "ECAT"

Agenda be amended to add William Baker and be accepted with the amendments.

"Carried"

4. Adoption of Minutes

5. New Discussions

a) Introduction to the ECAT

Chair, Niharika Bandaru welcomes the members to the first Essex Climate Adaptation Team Meeting. She provides an introduction to the members on the purpose of the ECAT team.

She provides a presentation to the members with regards to the Climate Adaptation Plan and what the goals will be of the ECAT meetings. She states that the number one goal is preparing an Adaptation Plan for the Town of Essex. She continues to advise that the Town of Essex has been diligent in reviewing the changing impacts from 2009-2019 and has provided strategies and implementations to curve the effects.

The members discuss adaptation, mitigation and the differences.

b) Introduction to Adaptation Planning

Niharika advises members that Mitigation is the action to reduce the emissions that cause Climate Change, and that Adaptation is the action to maintain the risk of Climate Change. She states that there are things that fall in between adaptation and mitigation and these items can be done.

She states that tree planting is an item that falls in the middle. She advises that trees reduce urban heat but also reduce carbon in the atmosphere.

She advises that from March 2020 to January 2021 there will be 4 phases of the making and implementing the adaptation plan.

Phase 1 is currently assessing Climate Impacts.

Phase 2 is Risk Prioritization

Phase 3 Council Approval

Phase 4 Implementation

Bill Baker questions how the Essex Climate Adaptation Team can engage other parts of the community with regards to assessing impacts.

Niharika advises that the Town will be expanding to the community with regards to open houses where comments and concerns can be discussed. She states that the Essex Regional Conservation Authority and the County of Essex are also currently involved in Phase 1 of the plan.

Dan MetCalfe advises that he has participated in the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment for the area. He states that information from the current assessment may assist in reviewing current climate impacts.

c) Climate Projections for the Town of Essex

Niharika provides information that pertains to the adaptation programming and how to identify the impacts within the Town of Essex.

She states that she projects that the Town of Essex will experience warmer temperature. The general theme will be warmer, wetter and wilder for the region.

She advises that the seasons will change, winter will have cold snaps with an earlier thaw, summer will be extended with increased heat waves, fall will have variable rain fall and spring will see higher levels of precipitation.

Dan Metcalfe advises that this year alone January / February 2020 we are seeing an increase in water levels from this time last year. He advises that Lower Thames Valley and other areas are already seeing the impacts of higher water levels.

Dan Metcalfe leaves the meeting at 6:19 pm

d) Group Visioning Exercise

Niharika requests that the members break into three groups and discuss the following topics

1. What keywords best describe the Town of Essex?

2. What keywords best describe climate action goals for the Town of Essex?

Table 1 states that the Keywords that describe the Town of Essex are: Growing Eco-diversity, urban and rural mix, recreation, urban areas and shorelines.

They state that the keywords that best describe climate action goals is regeneration, sustainability and community support.

Table 2 states that Keywords that describe the Town of Essex are tourism, shoreline, transportation and connected community.

They state that the keywords that best describe climate action goals is outreach to a variety of audiences and education awareness.

Table 3 states that keywords that describe the Town of Essex are community based, variety of events, heritage preservation, sense of community, and a place to go and enjoy yourself.

They state that the keywords that best describe climate action goals is ensure community is prepared and understand the impacts, ensuring correct information is being sent out, rely on items in the past and be the first to implement an adaptation plan.

Niharika advises that a proper vision for adaptation plan will allow us to think about the community and have an insight in the direction we are seeking to be at within the next 10 to 20 years.

e) Climate Impacts for the Town of Essex

Niharika asks the members to discuss impacts from Climate Change that they have currently seen.

Members stated shoreline erosion, flooding, extreme storm events, wind damage, changes over growing season, natural heritage loss, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), cancer rates, economic impacts, algae blooms.

Niharika advises that in 2018 there was high lake levels and fast spring melts. She states that the Town of Essex has spent over 5 million dollars on ensuring the sewers are upgraded. She states that the Colchester Harbour also has floating docks that allowed them to remain open while other marinas were forced to close.

Claire Sanders, Special Advisor states that water levels are extremely high. She states that due to the high levels the lakes are backing up the storm sewers. She advises that when it rains there is no where for the water to flow to and there for is causing flooding.

Niharika states that farmers are currently experiencing the effects of Climate Change. Many crops are unharvested at this time.

Matthew Child states that lake levels have been fluctuating since 1900 and seem to do so on a 40 year cycle. He states that the last time the lake levels were so high was in the 1980's.

f) Impact Identification Workshop

Niharika advises the members that an Impact Identification activity will now be completed by the prospective tables.

Table 1 states that there will be an increase in hotter days, increase in energy consumption, greater stress on workers.

The recommendations would be to grow a variation of crops that can thrive in warmer weather.

Table 2 states precipitation leads to more flooding, interruptions to services such as gas, water, telecommunications and food spoilage. The recommendation would be to encourage individual preparedness and community alliance.

Table 3 states that a higher municipal cost to residence and staff, infrastructure overload, cost to healthcare emergency services. The recommendation is to ensure infrastructure is prepared, work with emergency services and the community to prepare for serious climate impacts.

Niharika thanks the members for participating in the activity and advises that all the items discussed will be sent to the members for review prior to the next proposed meeting.

h) Closing remarks

Niharika advises that the next steps will be to host a meeting on April 15th, a summary of impacts and statements will be provided to members for their review and a technical assessment will be completed by the members at the next proposed meeting.

6. Delegations

7. Future Meetings


Next meeting Wednesday, April 15th 2020

8. Adjournment

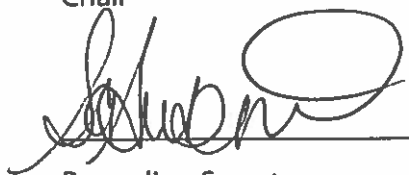
Moved by: Brian Lennie

Seconded by: Bill Baker

(ECAT 2020-03-02) That the meeting be adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Chair



Recording Secretary

