

**TOWNSHIP OF BILLINGS**  
**MINUTES**  
**Climate Action Committee (CAC)**

**January 26, 2022**

**Virtual Meeting – Zoom@7pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Bryan Barker (Chair), Bob Clifford, Mayor Ian Anderson, Paul Darlaston, John Hoekstra, Chris Theijsmeijer

**REGRETS:** None.

**Staff:** Todd Gordon (MPM, Recorder)

**Members of the Public:** none

**Media:** Lori Thompson – Manitoulin Expositor

**1) OPEN**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Moved by Chris Theijsmeijer; Seconded by John Hoekstra. Carried.

**2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda for the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting was approved.

Moved by B. Clifford; Seconded by Chris Theijsmeijer. Carried.

**3) DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

**4) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes for the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting were approved.

Moved by P. Darlaston; Seconded by John Hoekstra. Carried.

**5) DELEGATIONS**

None.

**6) OLD BUSINESS**

**I. Climate Change Implementation Coordinator Position - Update**

The MPM indicated that the position had been re-advertised through GoodWork.ca, a site dedicated to “green” job postings. Approximately 15 applications had been received as of the posting close on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and the process was in the hands of the two CAO/Clerks who would be conducting interviews with selected potential candidates.

**7) NEW BUSINESS**

**I. Priorities for moving forward with the CEEP – Discussion**

Chair Barker asked Chris Theijsmeijer to start the discussion. Chris had several points, and these generated discussion among all members. Understandably, some of the discussion also crossed over into topics that appear further in the agenda and, as much as possible, discussion points related to these items will be captured under the relevant agenda item. Discussion points with a clear CEEP-specific focus included enquiries from Chris, and others, as to whether the committee could begin to make progress in contributing to action on specific items from the CEEP such as:

- Collaboration with other local governments, community partners, etc. (the possibility of joint meetings with Central, as an example)
- Helping to strengthen governance structures in relation to climate action (and what this might look like)
- Following up on a possible composting program of some description
- Tree cover (tree planting and looking at the tree cover by-law were discussed)
- Dealing with wood waste at the land-fill
- Billing's wetlands – preservation as important natural assets – carbon “sinks.” Potential use of the township's updated aerial imagery (when it is available) in this regard was discussed.
- Reducing vehicle idling – particularly in the summer (but not limited to) – there was discussion around this in terms of an education/awareness/prompting approach versus an enforcement approach. There was also discussion of a proposed corporate anti-idling policy and municipal by-law from 2017 (Go Green Committee)

## **II. Climate Action Committee - TOR**

The Committee was provided with a copy of the Final CAC TOR as they will be presented to Council for approval at the February 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting. The MPM indicated that further changes had been made to the “Committee Role” section (Section 2) of the document in an attempt to capture the important climate action information sharing, promotion, and awareness building aspect of the CAC's role. With further discussion, the committee requested a minor adjustment to subsection 1) iii), to read as follows:

*Provide forums for dialogue and information sharing (for example, public events or workshops) related to the CEEP, climate action, and related environmental initiatives.*

## **III. Communication – Blog Plan**

The committee unanimously agreed that communicating the need for climate action, the work of the CAC, the CEEP and its action objectives - and other related environmental information, events, etc. - is very important and a vital, useful role of the CAC. Chris Theijsmeijer agreed to examine the latent Go Green Committee blog and share information regarding transforming/re-booting it as a Climate Action Committee blog and ideas with the Chair and the MPM, in an effort to get something started on the communication front for the CAC.

## **IV. Spring Public Events**

The Chair asked Chris Theijsmeijer, as a former member of the Go Green Committee, what was involved in organizing and implementing an Earth Day event – their typical timeline, etc. Clearly time is of the essence, as planning for these events would normally start in the fall of the previous

year. However, Go Green would typically alternate a “major” (a 1.5 or 2 day) event one year with a “minor” (1 day) event the succeeding year – with minor events involving a little less work for preparation and implementation. However, it is clear that time is of the essence in getting something in place for April of 2022.

**V. Status and Progress of Climate Action – Communication/Township Web Site**

The plan was for Paul Darlaston to present more on his synopsis of COP 26 (Conference of the Parties - #26), and the importance of including a brief overview of the conference highlights as part of the CAC communication. Unfortunately, the extensive discussion on previous agenda topics did not allow adequate time for the committee to engage in this. It was agreed that this should be a top agenda item for the February meeting.

**8) CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**9) INFORMATION**

None

**10) CLOSED SESSION**

None

**11) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

None

**12) NEXT MEETING**

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 @ 7:00 pm - Virtual (Zoom)

**13) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm, on a motion by John Hoekstra.