

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.
Township of South-West Oxford
Council Chambers

Present: Chair Jim Pickard; Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston; Cathy Reeves (community representative); David Schell (community representative)

Regrets: George Klosler (community representative)

Staff: Works Superintendent Adam Prouse, Chief Building Official Howard Leaver and Clerk Julie Middleton

Guests: None

Call to Order

Chair Jim Pickard called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by David Schell
Seconded by Howard Leaver

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the December 6th, 2023 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved, as amended (tree planting, LED lights).

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Adam Prouse
Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the minutes of the November 8th, 2023 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

Adam Prouse was unsure of why the hydro usage at the Shop had decreased. It was suggested that an electrical audit be undertaken at the Public Works Shop.

Energy Usage/Audit

At the previous meeting, the Committee questioned what the black (electric) lines are on the table in the Beachville Fire Hall ERTB bills – David noted he would follow up with ERTB. The response received was that in May of 2023, the Township was being billed at a higher rate and credited at a lower rate, it was discussed moving to time-of-use billing. The black lines on the bill indicate that the Township is in the two-tier program, and not the time of use billing program.

Grants

All hall boards have been advised of the grants that were awarded at the last meeting.

EV Charging Station at Mount Elgin Hall

Usage of the electric vehicle charging station at the Mount Elgin Hall is being applied to the board's hydro bill. Users are now being billed if they use the charging stations at the hall. The Township will need to consider reimbursing the hall board for hydro used.

Discussion took place regarding an EV Charging Station at the Dereham Centre shop. David will look into the next grant application opportunity.

Tree Planting

Julie will talk to Pete, Paul and George about sourcing trees through conservation authorities either for the Township or for private landowners.

Hydro Usage by Facility

The Committee provided direction to continue the electrical audits for the shop and then for Brownsville Hall. Funds have been included in the draft 2024 budget for these projects. The Committee asked if they could look at the usage for the Dereham Centre Hall, Foldens Hall and Salford Hall as well. Instruction was provided to staff to reorganize the information to present the data for community halls on one page, with all fire halls and Township facilities (municipal office and shop) on a separate page. The Committee requested that staff check if each hall is on time of use billing or two-tiered – and that the most recent bill for each community hall be included with the agenda for members to review.

Mount Elgin Community Centre Ceiling Insulation

The project is complete and approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 was saved – the contractor didn't have to take everything out and foam was sprayed over top. This is anticipated to make some difference, but staff are uncertain at this point how much savings will be realized. The library windows were caulked and all-weather stripping was changed on the doors – new kitchen door is going in this week. Hopefully the new door will also improve the heat loss at the facility.

Dereham Centre Hall Insultation

Howard provided the Committee with a quote for this project. More insulation could be added but it is uncertain what the impact and cost savings will be. It was noted that the contractor could take the walls down, apply spray foam and install drywall. It would likely be expensive to spray foam and drywall (estimated at approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000). Howard will get a quote to complete all walls in the gymnasium portion of the hall.

The Committee questioned if the Dereham Centre Hall is getting a rebate for the new windows and spray foam insulation as they may be eligible.

Howard is also getting a quote for adding walls and insultation at the Mount Elgin Community Centre.

Municipal Office Electrical Audit

This will be presented to Council at the next meeting and the shop will be done next.

Discussion Items

Salford Hall Radiator Replacement

At the November 14th Special Budget Meeting of Council, Salford Hall presented their 2024 budget proposal and 5-year capital plan. One item they would like to replace are the radiators at the hall, they have become quite old and are difficult to turn on. The Hall Board would like to replace them with new radiators. Council expressed concern about replacing the radiators and suggested they look into a new way to heat the building that would be more energy efficient. Council further suggested that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee review this at an upcoming meeting.

It was noted that the boiler at the Salford Hall is heated by gas. If the Hall Board is looking at replacing them, the time to explore this would be before replacing them, and not after.

The Committee asked Howard to get a recommendation regarding heating at the Salford Hall and if there are any energy efficient alternatives to what is there now. It was suggested that the Chair of the Hall Board attend this consultation.

Oxford County Trails

Adam questioned where the solar lighting at the trail on Kellett Road (run by the Oxford County Trails Council) was obtained from. David indicated that he would follow up on this and advise Adam.

Garbage Bin for Salford Hall

Julie needs to be made aware what kind of bin they want and then she can order it for the Hall Board.

Servicing Standards – Building for the Future (Climate Change)

Discussion took place regarding infrastructure – all municipalities will need to update long-term planning and preparing for future infrastructure. Some of this can be completed through asset management studies and plans. The Committee directed staff to look at updating servicing standards documents to plan for growth and expansion.

Official Plan Review – Update re: Environmental Policies

The Committee discussed the survey on Oxford County’s website for proposed changes to the Official Plan in relation to environmental policies.

Correspondence

New Business

Adjournment

Resolution No. 3 Moved by Adam Prouse
 Seconded by Cathy Reeves

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:40 p.m. to meet again on February 7th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried