

Municipality of North Cowichan Environmental Advisory Committee MINUTES

August 22, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room

Members Present Councillor Mike Caljouw (Chair)
Cam Campbell
Carolyn Drugge
Dianne Hinkley
Dr. Jana Kotaska
Sandra McPherson
William Valentine

Staff Present David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services, Deputy Approving Officer
Heather Power, Legislative Coordinator
Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist
Shaun Chadburn, Environmental Programs Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended by:

- (1) adding Vice Chair Appointment to New Business
- (2) adding Climate Adaption Survey Update to New Business

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee adopt the minutes of the meeting held June 27, 2023.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Solar Power Presentation by Peter Nix

Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist, introduced the Climate Action and Energy Plan's solar considerations and context against the Provincial CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and BC Hydro program offerings.

Peter Nix, Don Skerik and Dr. Tom Mommsen shared information on the benefits of solar energy in achieving carbon reduction goals and answered questions from the Committee.

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IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to:

- a) investigate the environmental, social, and economic impacts, of installations on civic buildings and typical single-family buildings, mindful of the recommendations brought forward at the August 22, 2023 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting about solar power,
- b) look for opportunities to educate and demonstrate to residents to advance solar power,
- c) investigate municipal tools and incentives available to advance solar projects in North Cowichan; and
- d) bring back a report to the Environmental Advisory Committee for review. CARRIED

The Committee agreed by unanimous consent to extend the meeting to 4:00 pm

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Vice Chair Appointment

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee appoint Sandra McPherson as the Vice-Chair for the Environmental Advisory Committee starting September 2023 through August 2024 or until a new Vice Chair is appointed. CARRIED

5.1 Climate Adaptation Survey Update

Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist, gave the Committee an update on the Climate Adaptation Project. Council's Strategic Plan outlined a goal to advance a Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for North Cowichan. Funded 100% by grant funding, staff have launched a process to make municipal operations more resilient to climate hazards building out from Cowichan Valley Regional District's Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. North Cowichan is in the first of three phases of this project. This first phase is to understand local concerns and is anticipated to conclude by October. The next phases of work will be to undertake a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, and finally the development of an Adaptation Strategy.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair;