

**Municipality of North Cowichan
Environmental Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

October 22, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Municipal Hall - Large Committee Room

Members Present Councillor Mike Caljouw
 Cam Campbell
 Carolyn Drugge
 Dianne Hinkley
 Dr. Jana Kotaska
 Sandra McPherson

Members Absent William Valentine

Staff Present Andrea Hainrich, Deputy Corporate Officer
 David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services
 Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist
 Kayla Reid-Starck, Legislative Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., acknowledging that the meeting is taking place on the traditional lands of the territories of the Quw'utsun Nation and the Coast Salish people.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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 25, 2024.

CARRIED

4. UNFINISHED AND POSTPONED BUSINESS

None.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Opportunities for solar power in North Cowichan

Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist provided a verbal presentation to the Committee and answered questions from the Committee.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

That the EAC recommends Council:

1. Authorize up to \$50K from the CAEP Reserve in the 2025 budget to install solar panels on the Crofton Firehall to provide a demonstration site for solar.
2. Monitor the performance of the RCMP building's solar installation as a demonstration site for solar.
3. Monitor BC Hydro's emerging rate structure to reassess viability, with potential changes including virtual net metering, larger capacity installations, and pricing structures.
4. Explore opportunities to increase awareness of requirements and streamline the permit process with the building design, construction, and solar-installer community.
5. Assess property-assessed clean energy programs to understand potential, administration and taxation implications.
6. Improve North Cowichan website content to increase awareness of solar projects and available incentives.
7. Explore Introducing a GIS layer that provides information on solar potential.
8. Staff to report back annually on the implementation of the above recommendations.

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Vice Chair Election

The Deputy Corporate Officer outlined the election process for the Environmental Advisory Committee Vice Chair in detail, noting that nominations would be accepted from the floor and that the vote would be by secret ballot.

Hearing no objections to the election process, the Deputy Corporate Officer called for nominations from the floor for the Vice Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee.

Committee member Sandra McPherson was nominated as Vice Chair and accepted the nomination.

No further nominations were received from the floor, therefore an election was not required, and the Deputy Corporate Officer declared Sandra McPherson as the Vice Chair for the Environmental Advisory Committee, for the term ending October 31, 2025.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee appoint Sandra McPherson as the Vice-Chair for the Environmental Advisory Committee starting October 2024 through October 31, 2025 or until a new Vice Chair is appointed.

CARRIED

6.2 Update on Community Grant Applications

Jennifer Aldcroft, Climate Change Specialist provided a verbal update to the Committee and answered questions from the Committee.

6.3 Update on the Diamond Head Review Report

David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services provided a verbal update to the Committee and answered questions from the Committee.

6.4 Question on legislative procedure for Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw, No. 3977 for Trans-Canada Highway/Henry Road

There was a question from one of the members in relation to public engagement for an OCP and Zoning Amendment application that received first and second reading at the last Council meeting. Staff will follow up with the member.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 2:31 p.m.

Certified by Recording Secretary

Signed by Chair