

NOVEMBER 18, 2019
MEETING OF THE PORT COLBORNE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the seventeenth regular meeting of the Committee Members of the Port Colborne Active Transportation Advisory Committee, held in Committee Room 3, Third Floor Library, City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne November 18, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

The following Committee Members were in attendance:

Committee Members:	Gregg Dame, Tom Harriettha, George McKibbon, Michael Scott, Wade Smith
Council:	Councillor Angie Desmarais
Staff:	David Schulz, Karen Walsh
Regrets:	Nicole Halasz, Ann Kennerly, Cassandra Magazzeni
Guests:	Rob Laplante

1. CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

2. WELCOME

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Tom Harriettha
Seconded by: Gregg Dame
THAT the agenda November 18, 2019 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Moved by: Councillor Angie Desmarais
Seconded by: Tom Harriettha
THAT the minutes from the July 15, 2019 meeting be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Moved by: George McKibbon
Seconded by: Councillor Angie Desmarais

THAT the meeting notes September 16, 2019 meeting be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

None

6. STAFF REPORT

- a) Budget Request – Asking for a Line item for Active Transportation and a Summer Student to implement activities.
- b) Committee Members - members terms expiry and meeting dates for 2020.

7. BUSINESS

- a) Terms of reference – update the Terms of Reference to include minimum number of committee members.
Carried.
- b) ATNN meeting on October 24 – Vision Zero (Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users, and to ensure safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all); Red light cameras – asking for Hwy 3 & 58 (sequence in timing); Rural roads – speeding a issue; working with the statistics from the Niagara Regional Police Services where the initiatives are needed.
- c) Trail Update – no weather damage on the trails in Port Colborne, the marina and H.H. Knoll park had the largest damage.
- d) Walkabout in the City –

Environmental Committee – See attached draft report on Boulevard Trees to EAC Meeting November 13, 2019

Active Transportation supports the Environmental Advisory Committee recommendation to council on boulevard trees.

Moved by: George McKibbon
Seconded by: Tom Harrietha

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee supports the Environmental Advisory Committee report on boulevard trees.
CARRIED

Kevin Lynch's Typology (Edges, Paths, Districts (residential), Landmarks, and Nodes) as applied in Port Colborne (see attached report).

- e) Community tool grant request Wade forwarded to Port Colborne High School
- f) Report to Council – presentation how was established, steps and work has been done, plans, and 5 year plans. Set goal for May presentation.

g) Meeting dates – Minimum of 6 meetings a year

8. NEW BUSINESS

Future meeting

Seaway property that is available. (highlight the areas)– next meeting check with Angie

Eliminate parking on streets to put in bike lanes pilot project – Mike Scott – example King St, Elm, Sugarloaf,

Clarence Street extension – bike lane, paint and small barriers (City of Hamilton)

Bus Shelter being installed at the bridges through the Transportation Committee

Year ago, committee discussed street scape in downtown area – pedestrian scramble at King Street and Clarence Street.

Sidewalks safety forward to Angie to present to Council.

9. INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

none

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Tom Harrietttha

Seconded by: Rob LaPlante

Resolved that we do now adjourn.

CARRIED

Time of adjournment 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Draft Report on Boulevard Trees to EAC Meeting, November 13, 2019

Recommendation: *That Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends to Council that staff be directed to review previous decisions on boulevard tree planting (Tree Installation Policy, October 2007 and Bylaw No. 6175/01/15, dated 12th January 2015) taking into regard the reasons provided in this report and report back to Council following this review.*

Introduction: Port Colborne's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) has been considering policy adopted by the City of Port Colborne on the planting and management of boulevard trees in Port Colborne. This policy is set out in a Tree Installation Policy which appears to have been adopted in the fall of 2007 and updated by Bylaw No. 6175/01/15 dated 12th January 2015.

The Bylaw and Tree Installation Policy provide for, among other things, the removal of trees from street boulevards, replanting a replacement tree if the adjoining landowner wishes, regulation of which trees can be planted with 4.5 m from City property and a strict prohibition on planting any tree within 1.5 m from City property including any replacement tree for one removed from the boulevard. No provision appears to be made for tree planting within streets owned by the City. Over time, this policy will result in the removal of trees from City streets in Port Colborne's urban area.

EAC believes that a review of this policy and it's further development to address the considerations listed below would benefit Port Colborne at this time for the following reasons:

1. Boulevard trees are important contributors to the quality of residential and commercial neighbourhoods and strategically planted can improve the environmental quality of the City as well as provide many other benefits described below. There is a substantial disparity in the distribution of boulevard trees throughout Port Colborne's urban area.
2. Public health research supports the importance of urban forestry and treed streetscapes. For example, American researchers have found the demise of ash trees due to the ash borer from the forest canopy correlates with increases in mortality where heart and lower respiratory diseases are concerned. More recently, Danish researchers have found that youth growing up in neighbourhoods with sufficient green space experience lower incidences of psychiatric disorders in later life. While the sciences doesn't establish causality where these correlations are concerned, sufficient evidence exists to warrant treed streetscapes, where possible.
3. Neighbourhood quality, including forested boulevards, is an important criteria where companies make decisions to develop and relocate manufacturing and industrial operations. The availability of quality walkable and green neighbourhoods for employees is an important consideration when relocation and development decisions are made.
4. Boulevard trees help improve air quality throughout the City. This is important where particulate matter is concerned. During extreme heat events, boulevard trees also help

cool neighbourhoods by providing shade. In addition they calm traffic by encouraging slower vehicular speeds.

5. With the extreme wind events we experienced in 2019, particularly October 31st and November 1st, Port Colborne may become geographically at risk to more severe and extreme wind events as a result of climate warming. More attention should be placed on reducing our vulnerability where larger tree species are concerned, particularly where hydroelectric facilities, building stock and streets are concerned. Attention is warranted to clarifying which species should be listed and regulated where bylaw 6175/01/15 are concerned. The list of prohibited trees and the possible addition of smaller tree species should be considered. This clarification should also be made available publicly so landowners can use these recommendations where replanting is undertaken, particularly where replacement of ash canopy is considered.
6. It may also be warranted to include this recommended re-consideration of Bylaw 6175/01/15 with work ongoing in the City on the topic of greenhouse gas mitigation strategies are concerned. Recent research on municipal climate change planning suggests that more emphasis needs to be placed on adaptation. Adaptation of Bylaw 6175/01/15 to extreme wind related events is warranted.

Further, In conducting this review, EAC recommends that the following matters be considered:

1. The use of smaller tree species to be determined as species recommended for application.
2. It is recommended that City staff work with municipal horticulturalists and landscape architects on staff and in other municipalities to identify and benefit for other municipal experience where comparable issues are concerned.
3. Where possible this work should be coordinated with the climate warming mitigation work underway presently in the City.
4. There is substantial variety in the dimensions and designs of the streetscapes in Port Colborne beyond the obvious variations that apply to commercial and industrial/manufacturing uses and residential neighbourhoods. If possible can there be some adaptation of the boulevard tree policy to reflect these differences?

Recommendation: *That Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) recommends to Council that staff be directed to review previous decisions on boulevard tree planting (Tree Installation Policy, October 2007 and Bylaw No. 6175/01/15, dated 12th January 2015) taking into regard the reasons provided in this report and report back to Council following this review.*

Kevin Lynch's Typology as applied to the Port Colborne's urban area (Spencer Gittens).

1. Edges:

Canal;
Lake Erie Shoreline;
railroad lines
Others?

2. Paths:

West Street;
west side of the Canal between Killaly and Main Streets;
the Friendship Trail
Others?

3. Districts (Residential):

Tennessee Avenue;
the residential neighbourhood north of Main Street on the island;
Thornecrest Road;
Chippewa Street;
the residential neighbourhood bounded by HH Knoll Park and the hospital, Steele Street, Clarence, and West Street
Others?

4. Landmarks:

Grain Elevators at the Canal entrance;
Robin Hood Mills;
Clarence Street Bridge;
the quarries?
Others?

5. Nodes:

West Street;
City Hall/Market Square;
the Vale Centre;
Main Street on the Island extending one block to the west;
Clarence Street from the Market to the Bridge and north and south on intersecting streets to Charlotte and the Railway and Museum/Library;
Others?