

TOWN OF CANMORE

MINUTES

Environmental Advisory Review Committee
Georgetown Boardroom, Canmore Civic Centre
6pm Monday May 13th, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Raina	Public Member
Julie Ulan	Public Member
Ralph Walicki	Public Member
Corrina Bryson	Chairperson
Esme Comfort	Council Representative
Bruce Gleig	Biosphere Institute Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dominique Lagloire-Galipeau

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Lori Rissling Wynn	Town of Canmore Liaison, Sustainability Coordinator
Amy Fournier	Town of Canmore, minute recorder, Climate Change Specialist

Action items in red.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Chairperson, C. Bryson, called the May, 13, 2019 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda for Monday May 13th, 2019 EARC**
Agenda approved
3. **Introduction of Amy Fournier – new Climate Change Specialist**
 - L. Rissling Wynn introduced Amy Fournier.
 - Amy's initial focus is on the implementation of the food waste collection program, creating a prioritized implementation schedule for the actions in the Climate Change Action Plan and updating the greenhouse gas emission inventory.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of Monday March 12th, 2019**
Minutes approved

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **2019 Fruit tree removal program; Bear Days**
 - L. Rissling Wynn reported that the April 13, 2019 Bear Day at the Canmore Nordic Centre went well, with about 450 people in attendance. It was a mixture of Canmore residents and out of town visitors. Fruit trees were a major focus in outreach at the event.
 - There has already been one black bear euthanized this year and there is currently a mother bear and her two cubs wandering the Rundlevue and Nordic Centre area.
 - The Fruit Tree Removal Program will be finalized after the cost for the Centennial Park fence is confirmed. The remaining budget will be used for incentives and to remove TOC trees. The incentive program will provide 50% of the cost of removal of a fruit tree to a maximum of \$300. It does not fund replacement.

Minutes approved by: _____

- The outreach will start late June/early July, before fruit matures, and will be targeted first in Priority 1 neighbourhoods of Rundlevie, Homesteads, Peaks, Three Sisters, and South Canmore. Priority 2 neighbourhoods; Fairholme, Teepee Town, Eagle Terrace, Benchlands and Silvertip, will be the next focus if there is still budget remaining.
- Outreach will include distribution of door hangers and pop-up education with the help of Wildsmart volunteers (Wildsmart has been consulted and we are confirming details).
- If any Committee members would like to help with the outreach efforts we would happily welcome it.
- There are an estimated 2,500 fruit trees (Crabapple and Mountain Ash) in Canmore.
- There is some concern that the bears may shift their interest to other types of trees once these have been removed.
- There are 13 Mountain Ash in the Downtown Core. While this area is not a priority neighbourhood, the Town plans to remove 2 per year to signal to the community that we are also doing our part. The new owner of the Grizzly Paw complex also intends to remove the 4 Crabapple trees on that property.
- Carol Picard is active in trying to connect people looking to pick fruit to residents with Crabapple trees to avoid the ripening fruit attracting animals.
- C. Bryson suggested TOC talk to PEKA and other major property managers about encouraging the Condo Boards they support to include fruit tree identification and removal into their processes and budgets, along with FireSmart practices. **L. Rissling Wynn to follow up with PEKA.**
- Spraying deterrent was brought up as an option but L. Rissling Wynn reported that from her dealings with the Province this hasn't been identified as an effective method and that removal is the directive.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Biosphere update

- B. Gleig reported that Wildsmart staff are very active and Biosphere staff have been busy with the Science Odyssey program and other outreach.
- B. Gleig is currently working on the updated version of the Community Monitoring Report.
- B. Gleig reported on behalf of Biosphere staff person, Jodi Conuel, that they are working on a participatory energy efficiency project and some staff are getting some training in Edmonton on the model of facilitating the process. Contact J. Conuel for more details.

2. Community solar (Biosphere Institute) ([link](#))

- J. Conuel also has a major project looking at Community Solar Generation. It is in the early stages. The approach is to find residential or commercial rooftops that could be leased to have solar panels installed that would be owned by participating community members. Financial, legal and governance models are being explored.
- They are seeking future Board members as well as Steering Committee members. B. Gleig asked **if anyone knows of someone who would be appropriate to please contact J. Conuel.**
- They are also seeking input on what kind of questions or concerns people would likely have about having community-owned solar panels on their roof. Suggestions from the group:
 - What's in it for me?
 - What kind of risk or liability would I be taking on?
 - How would this impact future roof replacement/repair?

Minutes approved by: _____

- Would there need to be an engineering assessment done on the roof and who would pay for that?
- How does this impact me selling my house in the future?
- L. Rissling Wynn suggested that large commercial buildings would likely be less complicated and a better place to focus.
- L. Rissling Wynn also showed the Alberta Solar Co-op as a model ([link](#)).
- C. Bryson offered to provide some input on governance options as she has recently received training in the area.
- There was a suggestion to utilize Town buildings but all appropriate buildings either have solar already or are planned to do so.
- It was also suggested that this could be a consideration for the schools that don't already have solar.
- It was also noted that government incentives for solar may be no longer available under the UCP.

3. UN Sustainable Development Goals ([link](#))

- L. Rissling Wynn shared the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well as a video on how they are being used by different groups in Alberta ([link](#)).
- A number of Town representatives, including Esme Comfort, attended a recent workshop on the Goals put on by the Banff Canmore Community Foundation.
- L. Rissling Wynn is most excited about by businesses adopting these goals and using them as a framework, especially considering the number of large resource-based companies in Alberta getting on board with them.
- There were some comments about “Framework fatigue” and the challenge in trying to fit the work one does into yet another approach. But there was also acknowledgement that these goals are very holistic and with them coming from the UN there is a lot more potential of wide-scale adoption.
- C. Bryson noted the link to the actions identified in Project Drawdown, 100 Solutions to Reverse Global Warming.
- L. Rissling Wynn and Lisa Brown, Community Social Development Manager, will be meeting to discuss the SDGs to see how they align to the existing strategies and work done by the Town and provide an information report to Council. It is unclear if we will start using these in an official capacity, given we already have strategic priorities, the potential amount of work to add additional reporting requirements and lack of resources to do so. The Town is, however, already doing a lot of work on most of the goal areas.

4. Banff Canmore Community Foundation Vital Signs report ([link](#))

- B. Gleig provided an overview on the Vital Signs report by the Banff Canmore Community Foundation, noting that he had limited involvement with the project initially.
- The survey was voluntary and had a small response rate so the results aren't a true reflection of the broader community. B. Gleig also noted that the report also highlighted some of the typical challenges with amalgamating and reporting data from different sources.
- It is unclear how it will be used by different organizations and the value it can provide to them, but it is recognized that it is a good start and was a significant undertaking for them to attempt to do this.

Minutes approved by: _____

- It highlights that the communities in the Bow Valley are very different from each other and there are a number of data gaps. As well, while attempting to move forward on Truth and Reconciliation, this work is incredibly complex.
- In terms of the empirical data used it is not much different than the existing Community Monitoring Report. The Vital Signs Report is focused on the 7 priorities of the Foundation, while the Community Monitoring Report is focused on the priorities identified in the Town of Canmore Strategic Plan.

5. Firepit “rules”

- B. Raina had suggested this as something we look at given that the fire season is upon us.
- L. Rissling Wynn showed the fire pit information on the Town of Canmore website. While it does contain all of the key points brought up in the discussion, L. Rissling Wynn noted now is a good time to do a bigger effort to get the information out. **L. Rissling Wynn will connect with the Fire Chief and Communications to suggest pushing messaging into the community.**

6. Discussion regarding provincial government changes

- A. Fournier provided a PowerPoint (attached) update on the implications of the UCP government canceling the carbon tax on the Climate Change Action Plan.
- The Town can still move forward on almost all of the actions but there will be less funding support, which will make it more challenging.
- Assuming Energy Efficiency Alberta will be cancelled, their programs that could have supported many of our energy efficiency related actions, especially pertaining to existing buildings, will no longer be available. L. Rissling Wynn noted this also impacts the potential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program as that may have been administered through Energy Efficiency Alberta. For this program we will continue to look to Edmonton as they are creating a Plan B that details how they will continue their Climate-related work without Provincial support.
- The Municipal Climate Change Action Centre that provides funding and technical support to municipalities has stated that, while they are partially funded by the Province, their funding is committed for programming until 2022/2023. They were created in 2009 and plan to continue their work as planned.
- The PowerPoint details all actions which may be impacted to some degree through either a loss of a funding stream or a lack of Provincial leadership (e.g. updated building codes).

E. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting officially adjourned at 8 pm.

Next meeting tentatively set for June 17, 2019.

2-2019

Corrina Bryson, Chairperson

Amy Fournier, Recorder

Minutes approved by: _____