

**TOWN OF CANMORE
MINUTES**

Environmental Advisory Review Committee
Classroom, Canmore Civic Centre
6pm Monday August 12th, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Raina	Public Member
Corrina Bryson	Chairperson
Esme Comfort	Council Representative
Jodi Conuel (for B. Gleig)	Biosphere Institute Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Dominique Lagloire-Galipeau
Julie Ulan
Ralph Walicki
Bruce Gleig

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 August 12th, 2019 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda for Monday August 12th, 2019 EARC**
Request to add an update on the Fruit Tree Removal program
Agenda approved

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Minutes of Monday May 13th, 2019**
Minutes approved
Minutes signed by Corrina, as per the Town of Canmore's new Committee Process

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Biosphere update/ Community Solar**
 - J. Conuel provided an update on the Biosphere's Energy Efficiency Project, grant-funded by Energy Efficiency Alberta. Using a participatory approach, the Biosphere is engaging residents, hotel owners and other businesses and builders, contractors and developers to find out what they want to know about energy efficiency and how they want to receive the information. She reported that builders, developers and contractors' they've engaged have shown an interest in renewable energy. They are working with BOWDA to identify potential speakers they would like to hear from. They will be bringing [Tang Lee](#), Architect and professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at the University of Calgary to present at the BOWDA lunch in September. **E. Comfort indicated she could get any interested EARC members an invitation to the attend the lunch.** J. Conuel noted that they hope to have Jayman Builders speak with developers about their experience and commitment

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to putting solar panels on new homes at a later date. The members of EARC present encouraged this as well.

- J. Conuel provided an update on the Community Solar Project, funded by Energy Efficiency Alberta. They have formed a Steering Committee to guide the creation of an Opportunity Development Co-operative which would manage the solar co-operative activities over the long term. The co-operative would be member-based and each member will be given one vote in the co-operative, regardless of how many shares they purchase. J. Conuel noted that they have a great representation of experience with the Committee members so far but if anyone knows a lawyer who might be interested in being on the steering committee, they would be a valuable addition. While they've had 146 residents register their interest to potentially have their rooftops be part of a larger community generation project, the Biosphere and consultant, KCP, have learned that Fortis would require significant fees to study and connect each individual household. These fees and process, which are specific to Community/Distributed Generation, are cost-prohibitive and won't allow this aspect of the project to continue as originally envisioned. The process and fees are described on the [Fortis website](#). Micro Generation, where a homeowner uses the electricity produced by the solar panels and sells any excess to the grid, is fairly well established and involves only minimal, if any, fees from Fortis. The regulations for Community (also called Distributed or Small-Scale) Generation, where all of the electricity produced is directly connected and sold to the grid, are new and seem to be created with the intention of having all of the generation happen within a single large site with a single connection to the grid. Fortis's process, requirements and fees target that model as well. L. Rissling Wynn commented that Canmore likely reflects the situation for numerous municipalities in that we don't have space for large solar farms, but we do have a lot of rooftop and parking lots. The challenges that the Biosphere have come across with the Small Scale Generation Regulation and Fortis Process will likely be happening in other jurisdictions as well. J. Conuel noted that the project can continue regardless and there are other options to pursue, such as a bulk buying of solar panels or micro-generation on individual households with fees paid to the co-operative. They are also looking at larger, commercial sites including Canadian Tire, Shops of Canmore and the Golf Club.
- J. Conuel noted that the Community Monitoring Report is still in progress.

2. Changes/freezes to provincial government programs

- L. Rissling Wynn and A. Fournier reported that besides the Solar Incentive from Energy Efficiency Alberta, we have heard of no official cuts. Energy Efficiency Alberta and MCCAC are continuing to participate in projects. C. Bryson reported that in her capacity as a new Board Member of Emissions Reduction Alberta she has heard of no changes to their funding streams at this point.

3. Update on Federal Announcement on Single Use Plastics Ban

- A. Fournier went through the attached short presentation with information from the Government of Canada Announcement and Backgrounder. The announced ban would not take effect before 2021 at the earliest. The materials included in the ban will be informed by an in-process State of the Science assessment on plastic pollution in the environment which will include public consultation. The ban would be part of a broader Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste which include the development of Extended Producer Responsibility programs. Members discussed how complex recycling programs are given the different types of plastic and confusion about what is accepted and not accepted in our program. E. Comfort noted that she is interested in the idea of a Waste Summit which would cover issues from recycling to waste-to-energy.

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4. Update on funding for Fruit Tree Removal incentive (added item at agenda approval)

- L. Rissling Wynn reported that because it is a shared budget with the Centennial Park fencing project, the amount available for incentives is what is leftover after we confirm the fencing cost. We received no responses to the RFP for the fencing so we still do not know how much budget we have available for the incentive. We will need to re-issue the RFP in January, hoping for the fence to be built by mid-May. **L. Rissling will notify the school that the fence will not be complete in time for the fall elk rut.**

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. Letter from Bow Valley Climate Action**

- E. Comfort had sent a copy of the attached letter from [Bow Valley Climate Action](#), a newly formed group of Bow Valley citizens concerned about climate change, that was submitted to Mayor and Council on August 12th, 2019. Their letter highlighted actions listed in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that require budget and encouraged the Town to ensure there is adequate funding provided to move these items forward. It also highlighted areas of the plan where they could support the Town in implementation. A. Fournier and J. Conuel reported that they have attended meetings and the group is very engaged on encouraging and supporting the implementation of the CAP. They have formed subcommittees focusing on different areas of the plan. A. Fournier reported that she will go to their next meeting on August 20th, and discuss her work to prioritize the actions in the Plan and opportunities for alignment with their interests. E. Comfort noted that they have requested to attend an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting as a delegation. It was identified that October would be the next opportunity.

2. Prioritization of Climate Action Plan – Actions for 2020

- A. Fournier gave the attached presentation which outlined the need to prioritize the actions in the CAP according to the potential impact versus the level of effort and cost. The presentation overviewed the actions prioritized for 2020 as well as the process to determine these. A report and presentation on these actions is scheduled to go to Council on Tuesday, September 3rd. We will ask Council to accept this update for Planning Purposes and return with a budget request for the items that require funding. These items include a Renewable Energy Feasibility Study, a feasibility study for EVs in our Fleet and a Studded Bike Tire Rebate. C. Bryson noted concern about the high number of actions that have been prioritized and suggested spending 90% of our time on the top 3. C. Bryson asked if the reason Canmore doesn't have Uber or Lyft or Carsharing has to do with a lack of perceived demand or Town By-laws. **L. Rissling Wynn will follow up with By-law to find out if we prohibit these types of businesses in Canmore.** B. Raina asked what the Town is paying for electricity to support the free charging station at Arts Place. **L. Rissling Wynn will find out.** L. Rissling asked for opinions on an appropriate incentive amount for the Studded Tire Rebate. Banff offered \$100 for a pair of tires with a program cap of \$5,000. Their program is fully subscribed. B. Raina suggested that we first find out the current costs for studded tires and advised that it should be a set rebate amount, like Banff's, as opposed to a percentage of the cost of the tires. **A. Fournier to consult with local bike shops to determine cost of studded tires.** C. Bryson noted that there is a link on her LinkedIn profile with a discount code to the Energy Disrupters Conference.

3. Residential Food Waste pilot update

- A. Fournier reported that the Residential Food Waste Program will launch on September 3rd with a 15-minute event outside of the Civic Centre at 12:05 pm. One of the neighbourhood bins will be delivered and the Mayor will be able to say a few words and dump the first load of food waste into it before the bin gets installed at its pilot location. Media and public are invited. We are currently providing free starter kits to residents that contain a home bin, sample compostable bags and program information. There was a question about whether the compostable bags were mandatory. A. Fournier reported that they are optional and residents can use paper to line their bins or nothing at all. J. Conuel suggested reaching out to restaurants about what take-away containers are accepted. There are different types that restaurants use and it is difficult to tell which are compostable or not. This will be a source of confusion for residents. **A. Fournier to engage restaurants on this issue.**

4. Reminder – September 25 Committee application deadline

- L. Rissling Wynn noted that some EARC members' terms are coming to an end and will need to re-apply if they wish to continue, which we would welcome. E. Comfort noted that there is an option to have a new Council Representative, though she is happy to continue, and C. Bryson noted that she doesn't think that she will be able to fulfill the time commitment so there will be a need for a new Chairperson.

5. Bow Valley air monitoring station

- L. Rissling Wynn reported that she went to the Calgary Regional Airshed Zone meeting with R. Walicki last month. All parties agreed that the mobile air monitoring unit would be located in Canmore for two 6-month periods over the next two years. It will collect 5 metrics, 3 of which are required for the Air Quality Health Index. Potential locations include Elk Run Ball Diamond or West Canmore Park.

6. Roundtable (added item)

- No Roundtable items

A. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting officially adjourned at 8 pm.

Next meeting tentatively set for September 9th or 16th, 2019.

3-2019

Corrina Bryson, Chairperson

Amy Fournier, Recorder

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