

# City of Port Moody

## Minutes

### Climate Action Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Action Committee held on Monday, April 25, 2022 via Zoom.

#### **Present**

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair  
Tugce Conger  
Eric Hedekar  
Helen Howes  
Poopeh Morakkabati  
Derek Wilson

#### **Absent**

Councillor Diana Dilworth, Vice-Chair (Regrets)  
Aline Bennett (Regrets)  
Adam Janis

#### **In Attendance**

Jennifer Mills – Committee Coordinator  
Bryan Moffatt – Supervisor of Urban Forestry (arrived at 7:21pm)  
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks  
Laura Sampliner – Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator  
Ding Yu – Project Manager (arrived at 7:24pm)

#### **Also in Attendance**

Stacy Barter, Executive Director, Building Resilient  
Neighbourhoods, Hey Neighbour Collective

#### **1. Call to Order**

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#### **Call to Order**

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and acknowledged the traditional territories of the Coast Salish First Nations.

#### **2. Adoption of Minutes**

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#### **Minutes**

2.1 CAC22/006  
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED  
**THAT the minutes of the Climate Action Committee meeting held Monday, March 28, 2022 be adopted.**

#### **3. Unfinished Business**

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## 4. New Business

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### Hey Neighbour Collective

- 4.1 Presentation: Stacy Barter, Executive Director, Building Resilient Neighbourhoods, Hey Neighbour Collective  
Links: <https://www.heyneighbourcollective.ca/>

Stacy Barter, Executive Director, Building Resilient Neighbourhoods, Hey Neighbour Collective, gave a presentation on Connect and Prepare – Neighbours Helping Neighbours, and the following was noted:

- the Connect and Prepare program is an initiative that aims to strengthen community resilience by creating connections between neighbours to improve emergency preparedness and social connectedness;
- the program is focused on strengthening neighbour-to-neighbour social connectedness in multi-unit housings where social isolation and loneliness are typically experienced more;
- the improved social networks between neighbours allows groups to plan and prepare together and become more resilient;
- the program was developed to create long-term resilience and help address the increase in shocks and stresses in communities, such as heat domes, floods, and food and financial insecurities;
- a resilient community is one that is able to proactively respond and adapt to unpredictable changes and ensures that essential needs are met;
- a less visible part of community resiliency is the attitude, values, and capacity of the people;
- the focus of traditional preparedness has been on big events and individual household preparation but is now shifting to include creating strong social networks as research indicates improved outcomes and resilience from disaster events for communities with strong social networks;
- those living in multi-unit high-rises typically experience lower levels of social connectedness with neighbours than other living types;
- the Program brings groups of neighbours together to improve social connectedness and provide opportunities for the community to understand their collective strengths and vulnerabilities; and
- the Hey Neighbour Collective is currently working with the Cities of Victoria, New Westminster, and North Vancouver and is available to implement the Program in Port Moody.

The Supervisor of Urban Forestry entered the meeting at this point.

Ms. Barter noted the following in response to Committee member questions:

- there have been challenges with engaging renters and the Program is hoping to work with landlords and property managers to help address this challenge;
- the Program does targeted outreach and engagement with a variety of cultural communities and has multilingual facilitators to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for all cultures and languages;
- the Program works with community associations and they are often funding partners;
- the Program's Neighbour-to-Neighbour Partner Table brings together stakeholder organizations, such as the local municipality, police, cultural associations, and foundations, to provide different views and expertise;
- a part-time program coordinator position is required to implement and run the program on top of municipal in-kind staff support;
- the Program encourages communities to think about continuity, such as having an annual block party where the preparation plan is reviewed or a welcoming committee where new residents receive information about how the community is working towards improving their resiliency and sustainability and what their role can be;
- the support of strata councils is important to build relationships and can be challenging to gain; and
- the Program can create social connections that go beyond emergency preparedness and create opportunities for neighbours to share other common interests and initiatives.

The Project Manager entered the meeting at this point.

Ms. Barter left the meeting at this point and did not return.

## **Urban Forest Management Strategy Overview**

### **4.2 Presentation: Ding Yu, Project Manager**

The Project Manager gave a presentation on Urban Forest Management Strategy – Project Overview, and the following was noted:

- the lead consultant for the Urban Forest Management Strategy is Diamondhead Consulting and work began in November 2021;
- the Strategy is broken down into four tasks, and is currently in Task 2 with the first round of online public

- engagement scheduled for mid-May and in-person engagement in late-May;
- the public engagement efforts include the launch of the project webpage and two pop-up park events with activities to engage the public and gain feedback;
  - the second public engagement session will include online stakeholder workshops and is scheduled to take place in late 2022;
  - the engagement sessions will include neighbourhood canopy cover mappings and block canopy cover mappings including surface temperatures;
  - the analysis will review previous data to learn about canopy changes over time;
  - a workshop with Council may be undertaken to create the vision, goals, and principles for the Strategy; and
  - the Tree Protection Bylaw update will be integrated into the Strategy and lead by the Planning Department.

The Committee noted the following in response to the presentation:

- there are many non-native ornamental trees planted in Port Moody that may not be able to withstand the changing climate conditions;
- the City could provide guidance to new developments about appropriate tree types for planting to encourage a diversity of tree plantings throughout the city;
- the City could create a policy for tree planting follow-up to ensure that newly planted trees are planted correctly and maintained to full maturity to help enforce plantings and maintain the city's canopy cover; and
- there are programs running in other local municipalities that offer property owners the ability to purchase a tree at a discounted rate which encourages more tree plantings on private property and ownership of trees, and increases the city's tree canopy cover.

Staff noted the following in response to Committee member questions:

- the public engagement efforts are scheduled to include information about the benefits of trees in the public and private realm and the required soil volumes and irrigation needed to create healthy tree ecosystems;
- the City's street tree inventory was recently updated and provides information about current tree conditions;
- the full ecosystems benefits of trees cannot be realized unless trees reach full maturity which requires knowledge and implementation of practices that ensure adequate soil volumes and soil health;

- the Strategy aims to create a high-level overarching vision, goals, and principles for all trees within the city and establish framework for next 30 years that informs growth and canopy trends in the city and opportunities to align efforts with the Official Community Plan;
- the Strategy will: review the current condition of the urban forest; inform the City about the public’s perception of the value of the urban forest; provide guidance for other regulatory policies, such as the Tree Protection Bylaw; provide guidelines for risk management and hazard abatement through connection to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; guide canopy targets for redevelopment scenarios; provide a better understanding of land use in the City; and guide tree planting planning efforts;
- the City collects security deposits for the replanting of trees in new developments which is held for two years from the day of planting to ensure trees are planted and maintained in a healthy condition;
- the City is hoping to incorporate tree watering programs into community engagement efforts this summer;
- the City aims to plant the right tree in the right place; a non-native tree may be more appropriate for the conditions of a boulevard location;
- the public engagement efforts will use the project website and Engage Port Moody and the pop-up park events are scheduled to be held at Rocky Point Park and Bert Flinn Park; and
- the Tree Protection Bylaw and the Strategy will be part of the neighbourhood urban heat island mitigation plans and staff is currently working on mapping the correlation of the urban heat island with the tree canopy cover.

The Project Manager, Supervisor of Urban Forestry, and the Director of Environment and Parks left the meeting at this point and did not return.

**Climate Outreach Subcommittee**

- 4.3 The Chair noted that a working group could be formed to generate ideas for outreach and education efforts about greenhouse gas mitigation efforts and their relationship with extreme weather events.

CAC22/007

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

**THAT the Climate Outreach Working Group be formed with the following members:**

- **Councillor Amy Lubik, Eric Hedekar, and Poopah Morakkabati.**

**Climate Ready  
Homes and Buildings  
Plan – Survey  
Outcomes**

4.4 Presentation: Laura Sampliner, Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

The Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave a presentation on Climate Ready Homes and Buildings Plan – Survey Results, and the following was noted:

- the Climate Ready Homes and Buildings Plan will outline specific actions for the City to undertake to help new and existing buildings reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more resilient;
- a consumption-based emission refers to the entire lifecycle of a building, including the production and manufacturing of materials, transportation of the materials to site, construction, and deconstruction of materials at end of life;
- there are available and proven solutions that can reduce emissions from buildings and ensure they are resilient to climate change impacts;
- the role of buildings in human health is important as humans spend most of their time in buildings and they have a direct impact on daily health and happiness;
- the homeowners and business surveys ran from October 2021 to January 2022;
- the feedback received from the survey helps create a program that is aligned with residents needs and motivations;
- the rebate sector must find ways to increase rebates and reduce costs;
- the motivation to manage climate risks has increased after the extreme weather events experienced in 2021;
- the top themes for the most effective piece of policy to achieve climate targets and affordability included: cost barriers, accessing rebates, and evening out cost sensitivities for home owners;
- the business survey indicated a concern for the next generation as a motivational factor for taking action in their business;
- the surveys indicated a strong need for policies to achieve targets and ensuring the policies are affordable and accessible;
- the theme of equity arose from the feedback and the City is trying to embed it into policy to ensure equal access for all members of the community, to ensure homes are climate ready, and to recognize the health and safety issues related to climate risk; and
- the draft list of actions and policy recommendations is currently being finalized and the draft Plan is scheduled for presentation to Council in July 2022.

The Committee noted the following:

- the Property Assessed Clean Energy program allows property owners to borrow money to undertake clean energy improvements to their homes or buildings but disqualifies the borrower from eligibility for rebates and information is hard to find;
- the Canada Greener Homes Grant Initiative requires homeowners to undertake an EnerGuide evaluation that provides expert advice on what retrofits make the most sense for the home and helps to understand how to improve the energy performance of the home; and
- the City could develop a program for homes and buildings to be evaluated and provide a prioritized list of improvements and available rebates to help guide and inform decision-making about energy savings opportunities.

The Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator noted the following in response to Committee member questions:

- the *Community Charter* restricts municipalities from providing direct financial assistance to business, including rebates;
- the province needs to make progress in incorporating carbon reduction language for alterations to existing buildings polices;
- there needs to be more financial support or programs for strata's to undertake climate ready retrofits; and
- the information about rebates is difficult to navigate and staff is exploring an opportunity to provide information and educational materials to residents to inform them about the rebates and provide links to industry information.

## 5. Information

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### Staff Updates

5.1 The Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator provided information about the Tri-City Nature Challenge, and the following was noted:

- the Nature Challenge is a friendly global competition that encourages people to find and document wild animals and plants in their cities;
- the Challenge is scheduled for April 29-May 2, 2022; and
- Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam are collaborating with stewardship groups to host free events and activities as part of the Challenge.

**Heat Pump Group  
Purchase Rebate**

The Senior Sustainability and Energy Coordinator invited Committee members to participate in the event, and noted that more information can be found at [portmoody.ca/naturechallenge](http://portmoody.ca/naturechallenge).

- 5.2 New Tri-Cities heat pump group purchase rebate code available here: <https://www.portmoody.ca/en/home-and-property/rebates-and-incentives.aspx>

This item was provided for information only.

6. Adjournment

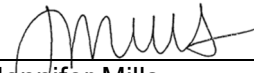
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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.



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Councillor Amy Lubik,  
Chair



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Jennifer Mills,  
Committee Coordinator