



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Monday, July 15, 2019 in the Brovold Room.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Bradley Fessenden
Bryan Fitzpatrick
Elaine Golds
Cathy Morton
Gregory Peppler
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunderland
Connie Smith
Russell Stairs
Judy Taylor-Atkinson (arrived at 7:06pm)

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair

In Attendance

Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks
Kurt Frei – Environmental Technician
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 EPC19/010

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, June 17, 2019 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Beaver Management Plan

4.1 The Environmental Technician gave a presentation regarding the Beaver Management Plan, its goals and objectives, and noted the following:

- Council directed staff to develop a plan that promotes coexistence with beavers;
- low-gradient areas in the City with adequate and sustainable food supply are most likely to be able to support beaver colonies;
- negative ecological effects of beaver colonies include impacts to fish passage (depending on fish species and location) and removal of riparian trees;
- beneficial impacts of beaver colonies include improved wetland health and improved soil filtration of stormwater;
- the preferred approach to coexistence is acceptance, rather than a reactive approach (such as live trapping, lethal removal, or relocation);
- mitigation techniques can be used to deal with infrastructure or public safety issues caused by the colonies;
- the beaver colony provides an excellent educational opportunity as well as an opportunity for inclusion of beavers into urban restoration projects; and
- the next steps of the Plan include monitoring beaver activity, applying mitigation measures, repairing trails, and continuing to work with stakeholder groups.

Staff noted the following in response to Committee questions:

- at least four beavers are living in the Suter Brook area;
- beaver offspring disperse from their home colony to search for new territory, and there is a high mortality rate in doing so;
- implementation of the Beaver Management Plan is dependent on Council; staff will prepare a full report, including costs, for Council in the Fall; and
- the territorial nature of beavers means that removal techniques are often ineffective, as old habitats become occupied by new families.

EPC19/011

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the information presented regarding the Beaver Management Plan be endorsed in principle for presentation to Council.

Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan

4.2 The Environmental Technician gave a presentation regarding the Bear Management Strategy, noting the following:

- the Conservation Officer Service (COS) has jurisdiction over wildlife in the City; however, many people contact the City instead and staff relay the information to the COS;
- a City-retained consultant provided 39 recommendations as part of the bear/human conflict management plan, and half of these recommendations are already in progress;
- the Bear Essentials program could be expanded, with more involvement with School District 43;
- Heritage Woods was identified (using Conservation Officer Service data) as the area for a pilot program to introduce a centralized waste disposal and collection program for all three waste streams that are currently serviced by the City;
- using Canmore, Alberta as the model, the start-up cost for this pilot program could cost \$675,000, which includes installation and servicing of equipment, and a vehicle for the new dumpsters; this estimate does not include operating costs;
- the risk of a centralized waste system is that bins could overflow sooner, and staff would need to respond faster; the current collection practice can be adjusted to prioritize higher bear risk areas;
- waste contamination and dumping are other potential issues of a centralized waste system;
- the pilot program could be scaled depending on the results;
- the program in Canmore was successful, with a reduction in bear/human interactions; however, there was pushback from the community due to a lack of prior consultation;
- there is no existing model for separating the recycling stream service under the pilot program, and it could be cost prohibitive to separate the collection streams;
- reduction and proper sorting of waste helps to reduce bear activity in urban areas;
- there is no relationship between bear report data and Solid Waste Bylaw ticketing data over the same period of time;
- an education campaign using community-based social marketing can identify barriers to compliance with bear-smart practices and can induce behaviour change; a similar program was successful in Whistler, and a similar campaign can be conducted in Port Moody for an estimated cost of \$11,000; and
- Council will be requested to endorse either both or neither of: the pilot waste collection program and the community-based social marketing program.

Action: Staff to report back on whether there will be cost savings in the future under a centralized waste collection program.

Action: Staff to report back on when locking curb-side collection bins were introduced in the City.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- future neighbourhoods can be designed around a centralized waste collection service;
- the Bear Management Plan can be conducted in partnership with other waste reduction initiatives as well as the Climate Action Plan;
- there may be an opportunity to outsource the centralized waste collection, similar to the collection of communal waste in apartment buildings;
- the hilly terrain in the proposed pilot project area could be challenging for some residents; and
- the City should consider a method to track the fines received specifically for Solid Waste Bylaw violations.

EPC19/012

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the information presented regarding the Bear Management Plan be endorsed in principle for presentation to Council.

(Voting against: Bryan Fitzpatrick and Elaine Golds)

**Sustainability Report
Card Update**

4.3 The General Manager of Environment and Parks provided an update regarding the 2019 update of the Sustainability Report Card, and noted the following:

- the Report Card was last updated in 2017 with input from the Committee;
- Planning staff are responsible for making evaluations of proposed developments with the Report Card; Environment and Parks staff are not involved with the evaluation;
- the Environmental Sustainability section of the Report Card will be updated to address regulation changes, and consider requirements versus additional measures; and
- Planning staff can consult with the Committee and also address the Committee's questions regarding the update.

The Committee suggested noise pollution as an additional evaluation criterion for the Report Card.

**Smoking Bylaw
Update**

4.4 The General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that smoking regulations are not harmonized in the Tri-Cities due to differences in the respective bylaws, and that Port Moody's Smoking Bylaw is more onerous than those in the other Tri-Cities.

The General Manager of Environment and Parks also noted that staff are currently working with the Burrard Inlet Marine Enhancement Society (BIMES) on an initiative regarding smoking and cigarette butt litter.

5. Information

Environmental Award

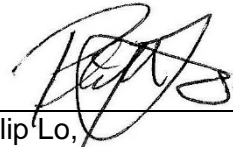
The General Manager of Environment and Parks noted that the nomination deadline for the 2019 Environmental Award is July 31, 2019, and that the award ceremony will be held in the fall of 2019.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:49pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair



Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator