



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Environmental Protection Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 in the Brovold Room.

Present

Councillor Amy Lubik, Chair
Margaret Birch
Elaine Golds
Javney Mohr
Gregory Pepler
Damian Regan
Jutta Rickers-Haunerland
Connie Smith
Judy Taylor-Atkinson

Absent

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Vice-Chair (Regrets)
Andrew MacLellan (Regrets)
Don McKendrick (Leave of Absence)

In Attendance

Angela Crampton – Sustainability and Energy Specialist
Karen Devitt – Environmental Coordinator
Lesley Douglas – General Manager of Environment and Parks
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 EPC20/004

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Environmental Protection Committee meeting held on Monday, January 20, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

2020 Work Plan

4.1 Councillor Amy Lubik

Attachment: Environmental Protection Committee Draft 2020 Work Plan Calendar
File: 01-0360-20-04

Staff reviewed the draft Work Plan and confirmed the details for items that required clarification.

EPC20/005

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the draft 2020 Environmental Protection Committee Work Plan be adopted.

Bird-Friendly Windows

4.2 Presentation: Environmental Coordinator

Staff gave a presentation regarding bird-window collisions and fatalities, noting the following:

- there has been a significant population decline in a number of bird species in Canada, including shorebirds, grassland birds, aerial insectivores, and common forest birds;
- single-family homes account for 90% of building-related, direct bird mortalities, with low-rise buildings (less than 12-storeys) accounting for just under 10%;
- birds do not understand windows and architectural cues as they did not evolve with them, and younglings may be more susceptible;
- solutions include: increasing visibility of glass by applying visual markers such as grid patterns, fritted glass, Acopian BirdSavers, or art; using architectural features to reduce glass surfaces; ensuring that landscaping is adjacent to glass; and reducing light pollution;
- some municipalities have incorporated bird-friendly practices in their design and development guidelines;
- Port Moody addresses the issue in a few ways: embedding bird-friendly design policies in the Official Community Plan (OCP); evaluating new developments through the Sustainability Report Card; and updating the Environmentally-Sensitive Areas (ESA) Development Permit Guidelines.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted the following:

- consideration of retrofitting windows at civic facilities would involve training staff to monitor and collect survey data for collisions, including looking for evidence of collisions such as window marks, blood, and carcasses; and
- the current staff priority is research and monitoring;

- there is a potential to do outreach work during Bird Week by providing information and education.

EPC20/006

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT Council direct staff to provide outreach and educational information on bird mortality during 2020 Bird Week.

Invasive Species Update

4.3 Sustainability and Energy Specialist

Staff gave a presentation on the Invasive Plant Management Program, noting the following:

- there are key guiding principles for this program but no official strategy;
- the work is mostly implemented by Parks staff; contractors are required for more specific work, and volunteers also contribute;
- prioritization and formalization of removal work is based on a preliminary inventory of invasive plants and establishment of criteria;
- staff are responsive to important information provided by the community;
- work plans for different invasive species are undertaken by season;
- after invasive species are removed, the area is restored and replanted with native species;
- opportunistic removal is also done while other work is being undertaken;
- giant hogweed is a top removal priority; other invasive species include English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, orange hogweed, spartina, and various species of knotweed;
- staff are provided with training and education to prevent the spread of invasive species and pests;
- staff work with neighbouring municipalities and regional partners to identify locations where invasive species need to be removed;
- there is currently a challenge with knotweed on SD43 properties; and
- the 2020 departmental work plan is proposed to include a dedicated invasive removal crew, with a proposed new service which combines invasive removal and restoration work.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted the following:

- there has been some success in knotweed removal from CP Rail land; however, follow-up remains a challenge as the sites have to be continuously monitored after removal and restoration work;
- TransLink has done some of their own invasive removal work as well; and

- climate change is a factor in increasing the spread of invasive species, which are more hearty and resilient, and spread much more efficiently than native plant species.

**Port Moody Nature
Event Updates**

4.4 Staff provided an update on upcoming nature events in the City, including the following:

- Feb. 29, 2020 – The Pollinators film screening, with a panel discussion focusing on pollinators in Port Moody;
- March 8, 2020 – Invasive Plant and Pull at Rocky Point Park;
- March 25, 2020 – Bear Essentials at Inlet Theatre with event time to be determined;
- Earth Week events, including Cigarette Butt Blitz, Bear Essentials, Bats at Night, Community Pollinator Planting at Pioneer Park, and the Enchanted Forest shadow art show.

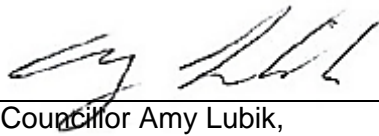
5. Information

Staff Updates

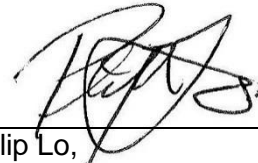
5.1

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.



Councillor Amy Lubik,
Chair



Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator