



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Climate Action Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Climate Action Committee held on Monday, October 26, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Chair
Councillor Amy Lubik, Vice-Chair
Elaine Golds
Helen Howes
Mike Kasuya
Shelley Moore
Bryn Sadownik
Derek Wilson

In Attendance

Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks
(for item 4.1)
Laura Sampliner – Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 CAC20/014

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Climate Action Committee meeting held on Monday, September 28, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Updates from the Environmental Protection Committee

4.1 Director of Environment and Parks

Staff gave a presentation on the Environmental Protection Committee Workplan update, noting the following:

- the EPC's 2020 Workplan included: bird-friendly windows, invasive species, Climate Action Plan survey results, Salmon-safe BC; pollinators, the Tsleil-Wututh Nation Burrard Inlet Action Plan update, the Bear Management Strategy, Sustainability Report Card,

rodenticides, ESA Management update, and the Urban Forest Management Strategy;

- the Urban Forest Management Strategy is of high priority, and the City will issue an RFP for a consultant to be involved in the work in the coming weeks;
- the Climate Action Plan has two objectives related to Urban Forest Management Strategy, to help with mitigation and adaptation;
- some of the ecological services provided by trees include carbon storage and sequestration, rainwater and stormwater management, and natural shading and cooling;
- the Urban Forest Management Strategy would be considered a higher level plan in line with the Climate Action Plan, ESA strategy, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; staff would ensure that these plans all work together;
- Metro Vancouver's Urban Forest Climate Adaptation Initiative and Design Guidebook provide a framework to prepare for the changing climate in the future; for example, the tree species decision making process would need to consider the future climate that the trees will grow up in;
- the Community Wildfire Protection Plan managed by Port Moody Fire and Rescue identifies fuel loading and treatment for fire risk, illegal dumping, hazard trees for removal, and provides community education and outreach;
- the City's tree canopy cover has decreased by 10% between 1999 and 2018, but remains stable in parks and protected ESAs;
- the strategy components typically included in urban forest management strategies or plans include: land cover and canopy cover analysis, urban forest report card, public engagement; action plans and recommendations;
- the proposed scope of work include policy and best practices review, development of a consultation strategy, and an implementation plan;
- other work that will be undertaken to support the strategy include planting support trees and conducting inventory of trees; and
- the City currently has two arborists on staff.

Staff noted the following in response to questions from the Committee:

- the herbicide Glyphosate is minimally used on invasive species using stem injections, as a substitute remedy is difficult to source;
- target setting for future tree canopy coverage in the City will be part of the upcoming work on the strategy;
- decrease in tree canopy in the City can be attributed to development projects, especially mixed-use developments;

- the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is being led by Fire and Rescue; the strategy should speak to both preservation of trees and fire protection;
- considerations for a resilient forest includes increased rainfall and pests; and
- the strategy is open to feedback from Committee members.

The Director of Environment and Parks left the meeting at this point and did not return.

**Climate Action Plan –
Request from
Derek Wilson**

4.2 Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Staff gave a presentation reviewing the Climate Action Plan and the three concerns expressed by Committee member Derek Wilson: that carbon neutrality modelling does not match actions; that there is a lack of a plan that results in real-action; and that there is a lack of direction for City operations to become carbon-neutral.

Staff noted the following:

- a two-year funding and implementation plan for priority action items will be considered by Council in November;
- a communication plan will be developed with key messages, tactics, and consultation with stakeholders;
- Monitoring of key metrics to see if we are really making a real difference;
- Committee members can be involved in the communications work by conducting outreach to residents, businesses and stakeholders, and by helping to develop key messages;
- actions that pertain to City Operations in terms of mitigation include comprehensive climate audits on all civic facilities and prioritizing upgrades, implementation of a green buildings policy for city-owned facilities, promoting mode-shifting, and developing a zero-waste strategy for City facilities and events; and
- the Climate Action Plan will be reviewed every five-years;

Staff noted the following in response to questions from the Committee:

- current data on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is difficult to obtain, with Metro Vancouver endeavouring to gather consistently good data;
- the City currently does not have a reporting tool that can be used a dashboard for the Plan; an open-data portal can be considered;
- some data is captured via the City's Transportation Master Plan;
- the implementation phase of the Plan will have more details about how the goals will be achieved, and how specific actions contribute to the goals;

- public reporting on the Plan will be done annually for each priority action; the goal is to have the most up-to-date data available to the public;
- public reporting on the Plan can include metrics such as the number of trees or percentage tree canopy added; the City may not need to be reliant on data from external organizations;
- the City's Green Fleet Policy requires that the City consider zero-emissions or electric vehicles, where appropriate, when a fleet vehicle needs to be replaced;
- the City has modelled a realistic path to carbon-neutrality by 2050, despite some of the granular household data not being available;
- high impact areas in the Plan, such as building, transportation, land use and growth management, and natural environment management, contain more actions;
- the development of a zero-emissions plan for existing and new buildings will address the need to replace existing household systems by 2030; and
- there will be interim benchmarks to measure progress leading up to 2030; the City is targeting a 40% emissions reduction from baseline by 2030;

The Committee noted the following:

- a communications plan and incentives are needed to highlight the urgency needed to meet the zero-emissions building plan by 2030; and
- the City of Victoria provides trees free of charge for planting by residents; Port Moody could consider this as well.

Climate Action Engagement Workshop

4.3 Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Workshop Topic: *"How can the committee help support ongoing climate action communication during social distancing and throughout the upcoming year where there may be a combination of virtual and in person events?"*

Staff led a Workshop to develop key messages, communication tactics, and target audiences for a communication and engagement strategy for the Climate Action Plan.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- a communications plan could be difficult to determine if the actions in the two-year implementation plan are not yet known;
- a key message is that climate change is an emergency that needs to be translated into actions;
- other communities have held neighbourhood contests to highlight individual household actions and to raise the level of community awareness;

- take advantage of existing community groups and social media; and
- the new Engage Port Moody platform could become a tool for public engagement.

The Committee provided further input on an online document hosted on Google Docs.

5. Information

Staff Updates

5.1 There were no staff updates.

6. Adjournment

Councillor Lahti adjourned the meeting at 8:57pm.


Councillor Meghan Lahti,
Chair


Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator