



City of Port Moody

Report/Recommendation to Council

Date: November 24, 2020
Submitted by: Environmental Protection Committee
Subject: 2020 Annual Report – Environmental Protection Committee

Purpose

To provide a report on the activities of the 2020 Environmental Protection Committee.

Recommended Resolution(s)

THAT the report dated November 24, 2020 from the Environmental Protection Committee regarding 2020 Annual Report – Environmental Protection Committee be received for information;

AND THAT the 2021 Environmental Protection Committee be asked to review this report and bring forward its annual work plan in spring 2021.

Committee Mandate

The mandate of the Environmental Protection Committee is to provide Council with advice and recommendations on the following:

- existing or proposed bylaws and policies related to the protection and enhancement of the environment;
- environmental requirements for new development or re-development within the City as referred by Council and opportunities for environmental protection and enhancement with respect to public and private operational practices within the City;
- opportunities for environmental protection and enhancement with respect to public and private operational practices within the City; and
- any other matters referred to the Committee by Council.

Meetings and Attendance

The Environmental Protection Committee met monthly between January and December 2020, with the exception of March 2020 due to COVID-19, and August 2020 due to summer break.

Councillor Amy Lubik was appointed as Chair and Councillor Meghan Lahti as Vice-Chair in December 2019. Between January and November 2020, the following members served on the Committee:

- Margaret Birch;
- Elaine Golds;
- Andrew MacLellan;
- Javney Mohr;
- Gregory Peppler;
- Damian Regan;
- Jutta Rickers-Haunerland;
- Connie Smith; and
- Judy Taylor-Atkinson.

Lesley Douglas, General Manager of Environment and Parks, and Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks, served as the staff liaisons to the Environmental Protection Committee. Philip Lo and Jennifer Mills served as Committee Coordinators.

Key Activities and Work Plan

The 2020 Environmental Protection Committee Work Plan was approved by Council on April 14, 2020. Between January and April of 2020, the Committee undertook a number of key activities in accordance with the draft 2020 Work Plan and which were in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

The following are the key activities that were undertaken in 2020 by the Environmental Protection Committee (a list of motions made in 2020, along with the status of the motions, is included in **Attachment 1**):

Bird Mortality Outreach and Education

In February, the Committee received a staff presentation on the leading causes of bird mortality and mitigation measures such as building and window design. The Committee recommended to Council that staff be directed to provide outreach and educational information on bird mortality during 2020 Bird Week.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Management Strategy Update

In July and September, the Committee received presentations from staff on the City's ESA Management Strategy update, with the Committee endorsing the updates by resolution in September. In October, the item was revisited to address the concerns raised by some Committee members, including possible mapping inaccuracies and the potentially negative impact of the proposed restrictions on property values. The Committee noted that the City should clarify any ambiguities and make additional information on the ESA update readily available on the website.

Tsleil-Waututh First Nation Burrard Inlet Action Plan and Burrard Inlet Water Quality Objectives

In June, representatives of Tsleil-Waututh First Nation Burrard Inlet Action Plan gave a presentation to the Committee regarding the Action Plan, which aims to improve the health of the Burrard Inlet ecosystem by 2025. The Action Plan includes water quality monitoring, habitat mapping, conservation, and recovery, oil spill prevention and response planning, and ongoing creosote pilings removal.

Rodenticide Studies at the District of North Vancouver

In September, the Committee received a presentation from Erika Nassichuk from the District of North Vancouver regarding bait trap and rodenticide use, noting the inhumane and harmful effects of poison on rodents and non-target species, and the preferred strategy of reducing attractants, keeping wildlife out of buildings, and deploying toxin-free, humane traps. The Committee noted that the District's policy approach is more feasible than a bylaw approach, and that communications to private property owners and strata management on this issue should be concise, and include advice and pricing to reduce the amount of research needed.

Urban Forest Management Strategy

In October, staff gave a presentation to the Committee on the City's upcoming Urban Forest Management Strategy including linkages to the Climate Action Plan. The Committee provided feedback to staff on the proposed scope of work, such as including targets for provision of public shading, encouraging stratas to avoid tree monoculture, providing education on preservation of trees on private property, and protecting significant tree stumps of heritage value.

Air Quality in Metro Vancouver

In November, John Lindner and Jason Emmert from Metro Vancouver gave a presentation on regional air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) tracking and reduction in the Metro Vancouver region as part of the *Climate 2050* and *Clean Air Plan*. The Committee provided feedback on the plans, including the need to increase the number of EV charging stations in the region, and the need to apply greater pressure on senior levels of government for continued improvements for air quality.

Salmon-Safe BC

In May, the Committee received a presentation from Kelsey Taylor of the Fraser Basin Council regarding the Salmon-Safe Communities for BC program, which promotes land management and development practices that enhance and protect fish habitat. The Committee discussed the item and forwarded a resolution to Council, encouraging the incorporation of Salmon-Safe standards into the development of the Sustainability Report Card. Council adopted the Committee's resolution in June, and it has also been included as Committee feedback as part of the Council-directed Sustainability Report Card review process.

Pollinator Project

In May, the Committee received a presentation from Robbie Nall, Horticulture Supervisor with the City regarding the Pollinator Project. The Pollinator Project is a capital project designed to encourage the planting of pollinator-friendly plants throughout Port Moody creating habitat for pollinators, supporting biodiversity as well as park beautification.

Forest and Nature Therapy

In November, Dr. Melissa Lem, Director of the BC Parks Foundation's Parks Prescriptions Program, gave a presentation to the Committee on the benefits of forest and nature therapy. The Committee passed a resolution to Council, recommending that staff be directed to explore forest and nature therapy opportunities as part of the Urban Forest Management Strategy.

Sustainability Report Card Review

As directed by Council, the Committee conducted a review of the current version of the Sustainability Report Card and provided input to staff. The Committee's input included: review the effectiveness of formats used by other municipalities, encourage planting of native vegetation, emphasize existing wildlife and biodiversity, and encourage developers to use high performance energy systems and construction methods.

Wildlife Updates

The Committee received regular updates on wildlife activity in the City and in the Tri-Cities, including herons and other native bird species. The Committee also received updates and provided input on the City's wildlife management strategies, including beavers, geese, and bears.

2020 Environment Award

The Committee reviewed the nominations for the 2020 Environment Award and made an award recommendation to Council in September.

Outstanding Matters

There are currently no outstanding matters from the Environmental Protection Committee.

Suggested Focus Areas for Next Year

Subject to Council's direction, the following focus areas should be included in the Committee's Work Plan for 2021:

- Urban Forest Management Strategy;
- Rodenticides – Staff Update;
- Bear Management Plan and wildlife – Staff Update;
- Invasive Plant Strategy – Staff Update; and
- Climate Resilient Landscaping (Climate Action Plan implementation).

Attachment(s)

1. 2020 Environmental Protection Committee Resolutions.

Report Authors

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2020 Annual Report - Environmental Protection Committee.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - 2020 Environmental Protection Committee Resolutions.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 12, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Tracey Takahashi, Deputy Corporate Officer - Jan 5, 2021 - 4:29 PM

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer - Jan 6, 2021 - 9:57 AM

Rosemary Lodge, Manager of Communications and Engagement - Jan 10, 2021 - 12:26 PM

Paul Rockwood, General Manager of Finance and Technology - Jan 10, 2021 - 6:49 PM

Tim Savoie, City Manager - Jan 12, 2021 - 11:09 AM