



Agenda Green Committee

September 23, 2020

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the September 23, 2020 Green Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the August 19, 2020 Green Committee meeting minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

5. **STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATE**

8

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the September Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status Table be received for information.

6. REPORTS

6.1 PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow in St. Marys

10

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow in St. Marys be received; and

THAT the Green Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council approve the action to establish a wildflower meadow that is _____ square meters and be located _____ in St. Marys; and

THAT Council direct staff to pursue grant funding to fund the wildflower meadow project

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Litterati Mobile Application

7.2 Gypsy Moth

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 28, 2020 at 5:30 PM (Virtual Meeting)

November 25, 2020 at 5:30 PM (Virtual Meeting)

9. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee be adjourned at ____ pm.



Minutes

Green Committee

August 19, 2020

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Member Present	Katherine Moffat, Chair Lynette Geddes Councillor Pridham Fred Stam John Stevens David Vermeire
Staff Present	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works Dave Blake, Environmental Services Supervisor Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lynette Geddes requested that an item be added under 7. Other Business regarding producer recycling responsibility.

Councillor Pridham requested that an item be added under 7. Other Business regarding artwork on Dave's Tunnel and the possibility of enhancing the Town's trail system.

Resolution: GC-2020-04-01

Moved By Lynette Geddes

Seconded By Councillor Pridham

THAT the August 19, 2020 Green Committee agenda be accepted as amended.

Carried

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Resolution: GC-2020-04-02

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Fred Stam

THAT the June 24, 2020 Green Committee minutes be approved and be signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

Carried

5. STRATEGIC ITEMS - PROGRESS UPDATES

M. Dykstra spoke to the Strategic Priorities Status Table.

Resolution: GC-2020-04-03

Moved By David Vermeire

Seconded By Lynette Geddes

THAT the August Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status Table be received for information.

Carried

6. REPORTS

6.1 PW 49-2020 MUNICIPAL HAZARDOUS AND SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTION

D. Blake spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee discussed the options provided within the report.

The Committee was of the consensus that more information is required before considering changes to the provision of municipal hazardous and special waste collection services for residents of St. Marys and Perth South.

The Committee asked that staff proceed with the October collection depot event, and report back to the Committee with more information.

The Committee made the follow resolution:

Resolution: GC-2020-04-04

Moved By Lynette Geddes

Seconded By Fred Stam

THAT PW 49-2020 Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Collection be received; and,

THAT the Green Committee recommend that staff move forward with the October depot event; and,

THAT more information be provided to the Committee at its November meeting.

Carried

6.2 PW 52-2020 WASTE REDUCTION WEEK

M. Dykstra spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee made the following resolution:

Resolution: GC-2020-04-05

Moved By John Stevens

Seconded By Lynette Geddes

THAT PW 52-2020 Waste Reduction Week report be received; and

THAT the Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council proclaim October 19 to October 25 as Waste Reduction Week; and

THAT Council direct staff to craft a media campaign to highlight waste reduction activities and advertise existing waste diversion programs in St. Marys.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Wildflower Areas in St. Marys

As advised by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, M. Dykstra provided the Committee with information related to establishing wildflower areas.

The Committee agreed that they would like to continue investigating the feasibility of establishing wildflower areas and requested that staff prepare a formal report to be presented to the Committee for consideration.

Resolution: GC-2020-04-06

Moved By Lynette Geddes

Seconded By John Stevens

THAT Staff follow up with the Committee with a report regarding establishing wildflowers at its next meeting.

Carried

7.2 Gypsy Moths

The Committee will do some research regarding possible mitigation strategies for gypsy moths and will report back at the next Committee meeting.

7.3 Producer Pay Responsibility for Recycling

L. Geddes asked if there is a Town update regarding producer pay responsibilities for recycling.

D. Blake responded that the Province of Ontario is moving forward with a regulation regarding a circular economy for waste diversion, which is a producer pay model. The blue box recycling program will be progressing to producer pay between 2023 and 2025. The Town has been in consultation with Bluewater Recycling Association to determine a transition date.

7.4 Dave's Tunnel Artwork

Dave's Tunnel is located along the loop trail between the Municipal Operations Centre and the Cement Plant. Dave's Tunnel has graffiti along the lower level. Councillor Pridham proposed painting above the existing graffiti as an amenity to the trail system.

Jed Kelly suggested that staff have a conversation with Canadian National to determine if they will provide permission to paint the tunnel.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 23, 2020 @ 5:30 PM (Virtual Meeting)

9. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution: GC-2020-04-07

Moved By Councillor Pridham

Seconded By David Vermeire

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee be adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Katherine Moffat, Chair

Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status (September 2020)

Priority	Item	Status	
Forestry Management	Revise tree species list	Complete	Complete
	Engagement and education opportunities	Ongoing	Pause
	Tree donation policy	Council Approved – Staff need to begin implementation phase	Implementing
	Seedlings transplant area	Council approved the Committee's recommendation. The Town will not establish a seedlings transplant area.	Complete
	Gypsy Moth Infestation	Committee to discuss possible measures at the September meeting	Research
Naturalization	Public Engagement re: naturalization	The Town is implementing the Sparling Bush Management Plan. Invasive species tarped in early June and trail access from Sparling installed. Considering the planting of large trees within the Bush. Sparling Bush Management Plan items for 2021 have been incorporated into the 2021 Capital Budget.	Implementing
	Recommend areas for naturalization		
	Recommend policies to establish natural areas and how to maintain areas		
	Investigate the feasibility of creating a wildflower meadow	Report back to the Committee on September 23, 2020	Research
Active Transportation Master Plan	Review existing active transportation network	Staff are continuing to complete an inventory of the existing network and working on the recommendations provided by the Committee at its June meeting.	Implementing
	Seek public feedback re: active transportation network	Public Survey	Complete
	Investigate mural painting on CN Railway Bridge	Email sent to CN inquiring if painting is allowed, and if there are any permissions or rules	Research
	Recommend an Active Transportation Master Plan	Due to delays as a result of COVID-19 and the re-prioritization of staff's task, a draft plan is anticipated in 2021.	Research
Waste Reduction & Diversion (Following the Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment)	Review Solid Waste Management By-law		Complete
	Textile recycling program	RFP in spring 2019 deemed incomplete; re-issue RFP in spring/summer 2020	Pause
	Mattress and box spring diversion	Green Committee recommended (June 2019) Incorporated in Solid Waste Management By-law (Fall 2019)	Pause

		Develop policy and review other municipal programs (Spring/summer 2020)	
	All other recommendations from WRDA	Will depend on the EA approvals for the expansion of the Landfill Committee to review MHWS program at the Landfill at August meeting.	Pause
	Green Initiative Recognition Program	Report drafted with program outlines for the Green Committee's review	Pause
	Waste Reduction Week	Approved by Council in September. Staff are developing in a media campaign for the October event.	Implementing
	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program	Report provided to Committee in August. Depot event to occur on October 31, 2020, staff to report back to the Committee at the November meeting.	Implementing

FORMAL REPORT

To:	Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee
Prepared by:	Morgan Dykstra, Public Works Coordinator
Date of Meeting:	23 September 2020
Subject:	PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow in St. Marys

PURPOSE

To report back to the Green Committee regarding establishing a wildflower meadow in St. Marys. This report will discuss the steps to be undertaken, the cost to establish a meadow and possible locations.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow in St. Marys be received; and

THAT the Green Committee recommend to Council:

THAT Council approve the action to establish a wildflower meadow that is _____ square meters and be located _____ in St. Marys; and

THAT Council direct staff to pursue grant funding to fund the wildflower meadow project

BACKGROUND

A Green Committee member received an inquiry from the public regarding wildflowers. Considering establishing wildflower meadows in St. Marys falls within the Green Committee's mandate, under naturalization projects.

The Town's Recreation and Leisure Services Master Plan recommends and encourages the naturalization of municipal lands, including Town parks. The Town of St. Marys Council tasked the 2018-2022 Green Committee with recommending policies to establish natural areas and create strategies for maintaining natural areas. To date, the Green Committee has been focusing on the rehabilitation of Sparling Bush, an established natural area in St. Marys. The approach is to use Sparling Bush as a pilot area to determine best practices with respect to establishing and maintaining natural areas which can be incorporated into a naturalization plan. Establishing a wildflower meadow can complement the works being undertaken at Sparling Bush, as the primary focus has been towards woodlot management. Wildflower considerations should also be incorporated into a naturalization plan.

There are many benefits to establishing a wildflower area:

- A beautification method and amenity along the Town's trail network
- Support dwindling populations of native pollinators including butterflies, moths and bees, helping to sustain insects that pollinate food crops. This is particularly important in increasingly built up environments.
- Act as a habitat for various animals and insects including caterpillars, spiders, birds, frogs, newts, toads and other small animals.

This report will outline how to establish a wildflower meadow, the financial implications to establish the wildflower area, and possible locations.

REPORT

The Town of St. Marys does not have any established wildflower meadows. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has experience with wildflower meadows, there are meadows in Mitchell and at Wildwood Conservation Area. UTRCA has been consulted while preparing this report.

Planting

There are three methods for preparing the site:

- Chemical spray to kill the grass area;
- Skim a layer of sod with a tractor bucket then roto-till to loosen up the soil; or
- Roto-till (more possible for grass to grow which will require maintenance)
- Tarping with Geotextile fabric for several months in advance of the plant

Once the site has been prepared, the wildflowers can be planted. Wildflowers are planted in plug packages, a plug package includes a variety of wildflowers that include spring, summer and fall blooming flowers. An assortment of native flower species allows for all season blooming, and different flower heights (preventing weed growth). The plugs are planted 12 inches apart, approximately 10 plants per square meter. The plugs are ordered in November for a spring plant (like tree orders), there are nurseries in the area that can supply the plugs.

The time required to plant the wildflower meadow will vary depending on the size of the meadow and the number of volunteers planting the plugs. For context, the Mitchell wildflower meadow used 1400 plants (approx. 140 square metres), and with the assistance of a Grade 5 class of 28 students and 15 adults the meadow was planted in four hours. Approximately 350 plants were planted per hour.

A methodology for planting has not been included in this report as it is difficult to speculate what type of restrictions will be in place for Spring 2021. If the Committee and Council wish to proceed with establishing a wildflower meadow area, a plan can be developed closer to the planting date. Consideration should be given to a collaborative approach that includes Town staff, UTRCA representatives, local service clubs, students and the Green Committee.

Meadow Configuration and Costs

Town staff have created several conceptual configurations for discussion, please see **Attachment A – Meadow Configurations and Costs**. The attachment provides possible locations, configuration and size of the meadow, the cost of materials and supplies to plant the meadow and tentative planting timelines.

Please note that the configurations are adjacent to Sparling Bush, between the trail network. There is a Hydro One easement within that area, there is a chance that Hydro One will need to access that area and potentially position equipment in the meadow to do repairs.

The configurations are conceptual in nature and subject to change as a result of the Committee's discussion and recommendations.

The Town can apply for grant monies to fund the purchase of the plug packages. Establishing a wildflower meadow falls within the criteria for the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant (TD FEF). The application period closes in January 2021, notice of decision is received in April 2021.

The Town needs to place an order with the nursery for the plug packages by mid-fall for a spring plant. As the Town will not know the funding source until spring 2021, staff are recommending that the materials and supplies cost not exceed \$5,000.00. The majority of approved TD FEF grants are

between \$2,000 and \$8,000. An amount of \$5,000.00 or less falls within the grant guidelines and can be absorbed within the operating budget should funding not be received.

A wildflower meadow that does not exceed \$5,000 in costs is approximately 165 square meters in size. A meadow of this size can act as pilot project before considering larger tracts of land. In the future, a phased in approach can be developed to accommodate a larger area.

Questions for the Green Committee

1. Which method should be used to prepare the site?
2. What site configuration does the Committee prefer? Is there a preferred location or size?

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Conceptual configurations were provided to the Committee, the costs were also included.

The materials and supplies cost per square meter are \$30.00 or \$33.50 per square meter if the tarping preparation method is used, the labour costs are unknown at this time however, the costs will be minimal and absorbed through existing operating budget and volunteer participation. Grant funding is available and should be pursued to cover the cost of the initiative.

SUMMARY

The Green Committee has been tasked with reviewing and considering naturalization projects. At previous meetings the Committee has discussed the feasibility of establishing a wildflower meadow. Staff have presented a report to the Committee regarding potential locations and costs for the Committee to discuss and make a recommendation to Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN

- ☐ Not applicable to this report.
- ☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Recreation and Leisure Services Master Plan
 - Parks and Trails Recommendation:
 - Outcome: Consider naturalization of select areas of parklands, including Meadowvale Park and Southvale Park, in order to reduce parkland maintenance efforts. Where appropriate, naturalization of other municipal lands is also encouraged.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Vanni Azzano – Supervisor, Community Education (Upper Thames River Conservation Authority)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Meadow Configurations and Costs

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the Department

Morgan Dykstra
Public Works Coordinator

Jed Kelly
Director of Public Works

PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow

Attachment A - Meadow Configurations and Costs

OPTION 1



Total Area = 654 sq m

Plug Packages

654 sq m x 10 = 6540 plugs

6540 plugs x \$3.00/plug = \$19,620.00

Tarping Cost

\$3.50/sq m x 654 = \$2289.00

Total Cost: \$21,909.00

Approx. 19 hours to plant

OPTION 2



Total Area = 545 sq m

Plug Packages

545 sq m x 10 = 5450 plugs

5450 plugs x \$3.00/plug = \$16,350.00

Tarping Costs

\$3.50/sq m x 545 = \$1907.50

Total Cost: \$18,257.50

Approx. 16 hours to plant

PW 63-2020 Establishing a Wildflower Meadow Attachment A - Meadow Configurations and Costs

OPTION 3



Total Area = 131.4 sq m

Plug Package Costs
 $131.4 \times 10 = 1314.00$
 $1314 \times \$3.00/\text{plug} = \3942.00

Tarping Costs
 $\$3.50/\text{sq m} \times 131.4 = \458.50

Total Cost: \$4400.50 + HST

Approx. 4 hours to plant

OPTION 4



Total Area = 125 sq m

Plug Package Costs
 $125 \times 10 = 1250$
 $1250 \times \$3.00/\text{plug} = \3750.00

Tarping Costs
 $\$3.50/\text{sq m} \times 125 = \437.50

Total Cost: \$4187.50 + HST

Approx. 4 hours to plant