



## **Minutes**

### **Green Committee**

June 22, 2022

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

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

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

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Vermeire called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

#### **3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Resolution: GC-2022-05-01**

**Moved By** Councillor Pridham

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** June 22, 2022 Green Committee Agenda be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

None.

**5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Resolution: GC-2022-05-02**

**Moved By** Lynette Geddes

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the May 25, 2022 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

**Carried**

**6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - STATUS UPDATE**

Morgan Dykstra spoke to the Strategic Priorities Status Update.

Lynette Geddes noted that the Loop Trail at James Street South does not have any garbage cans and poop bags available for trail users, and the Town should consider placing some there.

Morgan Dykstra responded that it will be considered during the Active Transportation Master Plan process.

**Resolution: GC-2022-05-03**

**Moved By** John Stevens

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the June Green Committee Strategic Priorities Table be received for information.

**Carried**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 PW 44-2022 At home Organics Diversion**

Dave Blake spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

Katherine Moffat sought clarification regarding the size of the existing composters, and whether they are a suitable size for families of four.

Dave Blake responded that the size of the backyard composter is somewhat standard, the appropriate size is dependent on the use of the composter.

Lynette Geddes advised that the City of London offers a variety of sizes, and that there are a variety of variables that contribute to the breakdown of the organics and therefore the appropriate size per household varies.

Lynette Geddes asked how fast the Town's stock of digester's sell.

Dave Blake responded that the uptake is very limited, the Town has received inquiries, but rarely proceeds to a sale.

Lynette Geddes proposed that if there is \$5,000 in the budget each year, and if at the end of the year the digesters have not sold, that the left-over stock be sold at a discounted price to encourage households to compost.

Dave Blake clarified that the \$5,000 was a one-time budgetary commitment to purchase the initial organic digesters, with the assumption that as the digesters are sold at cost the budget for purchasing additional organic digesters would replenish.

Lynette Geddes noted there is a benefit to getting rid of the existing stock via promotion.

Katherine Moffat asked whether it is an issue of communication and commented that people may not know that the organic digesters are available for purchase.

Dave Blake responded that he is unsure of the cause of the uptake hesitancy and noted that the organic digesters have been available to purchase at Town events.

Fred Stam commented that there is no indication of organics and composters on the Town's website, by adding this information public interest may be garnered.

Dave Blake responded that the Public Works Department will need to collaborate with the Communications Department to make the information more available.

Councillor Pridham commented that in 2008 the Town offered a discounted price for digesters and the program was successful and noted that if the goal is to reduce the amount of waste being transferred to the Landfill, then subsidizing the cost of digesters may be a good solution to reduce waste.

Councillor Pridham added that the Committee could ask Council to subsidize the remaining digesters to measure uptake.

The Committee was of the opinion that any organics program should be promoted to the public to improve awareness.

**Resolution: GC-2022-05-04**

**Moved By** Councillor Pridham

**Seconded By** Lynette Geddes

**THAT** report PW 44-2022, At Home Organics Diversion be received; and,

**THAT** the Green Committee recommends to Council:

**THAT** the remaining organics digesters be sold at 50% of cost;

**THAT** the staff report back on the uptake of the sales; and,

**THAT** Council consider including \$5,000 in the 2023 budget deliberations to subsidize at-home organics diversion.

**Carried**

**9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

September 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. (Hybrid)

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution: GC-2022-05-05**

**Moved By** Councillor Pridham

**Seconded By** Lynette Geddes

**THAT** this meeting of the Green Committee adjourns at 5:53 p.m.

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David Vermeire, Chair

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Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary