

# THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE ROOM #304**

**JANUARY 24, 2019**

2:00 p.m. The meeting convened.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### Members

Councillor J. Herbert, Chair  
J. Tucker, Arborist  
B. McClure, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority  
H. Schraeder  
P. Hontar  
J. Lawrence, Director, Env. Services  
and City Engineer  
A. Solsona

### Officials

W. Graves, City Manager  
R. Tucker, Director of Parks, Recreation  
and Property Management  
A. Jefferson, Supervisor of Parks and  
Forestry  
M. Smale, Corporate Admin. Clerk

### Others

Dave Collins, 166 Lake Margaret Trail

## **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None.

## **OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE MANDATE AND WORK TO DATE** - Appendix "A"

The City Manager welcomed those in attendance and the members exchanged introductions

The City Manager provided an overview of the Committee's mandate and structure, as defined by Council's procedural by-law.

The City Manager advised of the process to close a meeting to discuss certain topics as permitted by the Municipal Act.

The City Manager advised that decorum by the members was governed by the City of St. Thomas Code of Conduct for members of Council and its Boards and Committees and that the City retained an independent Integrity Commissioner to address concerns of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct.

The City Manager advised that a file repository containing background documents, policies, and procedures would be available to the members and that the Committee Secretary could forward access instructions to the members.

### Budget

The City Manager advised that \$10,000 - \$15,000 was approved annually within the Parks and Recreation Operating Budget to fund initiatives of the Committee and that an additional \$60,000 had been conferred by Doug Tarry Ltd. into a legacy fund.

The City Manager advised that regular reporting can be made to Council through the Chair.

## **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

The City Manager called for nominations for the appointment of Chair.

Mr. Schraeder was nominated as Chair but declined due to other commitments.

Councillor Herbert was nominated as Chair and was appointed by consensus.

## **MINUTES**

The members requested that the minutes from the meeting held on October 11, 2018 be recirculated and be deferred to the next meeting.

CONFIRMED \_\_\_\_\_ CHAIRMAN

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lake Margaret Management Plan Recommended Tasks/Activities - Appendix "B"

The members received updates on the status of the various activities outstanding:

Water Quality Testing

The City Manager advised that water quality testing was intended to be completed every two years and that the last testing had been completed in 2016. It was anticipated that testing would be completed in 2019 and that funding would come from the Committee's budget.

The members discussed the baseline that had been established and the testing locations used.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that some previous testing locations would likely be discontinued and that consideration could be given to adding a sample site in Pinafore Pond.

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer provided an overview of the drainage plan for the Parish Farm development south of the existing Lake Margaret subdivision.

Phosphorous Education

The members agreed to wait until updated water quality testing results were available prior to initiating this campaign.

Ms. McClure noted that the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority had completed a phosphorous education campaign in 2013.

Parkside Collegiate Institute Water Taking

The Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer advised that Parkside Collegiate Institute was investigating the connection of its irrigation system to the municipal water system.

Geese/Waterfowl Management

The Director of Parks and Recreation, and Property Management advised that the program to oil geese eggs had been deemed successful and will continue in 2019.

Trail Development

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that the Lake Margaret Trail was complete and that approximately 30 kilometres of trail city-wide were now installed. He further added that the Owaissa Trail at Athletic Park was slated for construction in 2019.

The members discussed responsibility for snow removal and maintenance of trails.

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that his staff were responsible for snow removal and that some salt is used during winter maintenance.

Fish Inventory

The City Manager advised that the fish inventory study had been completed and that the draft report would be circulated to the members for review at the next meeting.

Tree Identification/Flora Study

Ms. McClure advised that naturalist clubs had been contacted regarding this initiative.

The members discussed online tree identification applications and that Fanshawe College may be interested in participating in a mapping venture.

Bird Habitat

Ms. McClure advised that the St. Thomas Field Naturalists would be providing information from its Christmas bird count.

Viewing Platform

The City Manager advised that the viewing platform was not funded within the 2019 Capital budget and the project would remain on the unfunded capital projects lists for future consideration.

Turtle Habitat

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that the task relating to the turtle habitat was complete.

Environmental Buffer Zones/Plantings

The City Manager advised that information pertinent to this item may be contained in the Fish Inventory report and that further discussion could occur as part of a broader management plan.

Fishing and Canoeing on Lake

The City Manager advised that recreational uses were currently governed by the 2010 Lake Margaret Environmental Management Plan, that the Plan was available in the Committee's document repository and that the members could review and recommend revisions to this plan at a future meeting.

Signage

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Property Management advised that the Parks and Recreation By-Law was currently under review and that updated signage would be considered once Council had adopted the revised by-law.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Parkside Collegiate Institute Water Taking - Dave Collins

The Chair referred to the update provided by the Director of Environmental Services and City Engineer earlier in the meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Implementation: Environmental Tasks

Parkside Water Taking

Fish Survey - Lake Margaret

**NEXT MEETING**

The members agreed to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 14th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in Room #304.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by J. Lawrence - B. McClure:

THAT: The meeting adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

Carried.



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

# AGENDA

1. Introduction of Committee
2. City Committee System / Procedures
3. Terms of Reference
4. Background Resources
5. Establishing Priorities
6. Budget
7. Confirming a Regular Meeting Time
8. Selection of a Chairman
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

# COUNCIL PROCESSES / PROCEDURES

1. Council Procedures
2. Agendas / Minutes
3. Council Code of Conduct
4. Reporting to City Council
5. Budget Process
6. Access to Committee Information

## TERMS OF REFERENCE (principles)

- The ESC will be a Select Committee of Council
- Membership will include: 1 Member of City Council
  - 1 Member : Parks and Recreation Department
  - 1 Member : Environmental Services Department
  - 1 Member : KCCA Administration
  - 1 Member : St. Thomas – Elgin Homebuilders Association
  - 3 Citizen Members
- Term : Coincide with Term of Council
- Establish environmental stewardship priorities for natural environment
- Establish an environmental stewardship natural environment action plan for the City
- For first two years... main focus will be on the Lake Margaret Area
- Provide education / resources relating to environmental stewardship to community
- Focus on “public” environmental spaces
- Provide an annual report to City Council
- Seek environmental stewardship funding opportunities
- Recommend priorities for potential budget allocations
- Liaise with municipal staff as new development areas are being proposed which include environmentally sensitive areas
- Seek out / pursue community driven participation in stewardship activities / events.

# BACKGROUND RESOURCES

1. City Departments
2. KCCA / CCCA
3. Lake Margaret Management Area Studies
4. Phragmites Committee



August 2, 2018

## **LAKE MARGARET MANAGEMENT AREA**

### General Update of Management Plan : Recommended Tasks / Activities for consideration

#### Water Quality Testing

Proposed to be done every two years during ice free seasons. Next testing period would be in 2019.  
Approx. Cost : \$2000 per sample location for the season. Total \$10,000

#### Phosphorous Education

Proposed neighbourhood campaign in spring 2019.  
Approx cost : \$3,500

#### Parkside Water Taking

City is getting details on pumping activities / volume of water being pumped.

#### Geese / Waterfowl Management

Program to continue into 2019.

#### Trail Development

To be completed in 2018

#### Fish Inventory

Proposed fish inventory in fall of 2018.  
Approximate cost : \$8,300

#### Tree Identification / Flora Study

Contact made with local naturalists clubs – possible implementation in 2019.

#### Viewing Platform

Details being sought on costs. Possible Service Club project.

#### Bird Habitat

St. Thomas Field Naturalists – possible coordinated project for 2019

#### Turtle Habitat

Parks Dept. - clean up pressure treated lumber etc.

## Environmental Buffer Zones / Plantings

Targeted education program / planting program – spring 2019  
Approximate cost \$10,000

## Fishing on Lake

Further discussion following fish inventory work.

## Canoeing on Lake

## Signage

Interpretive signage / storyboards. Possible GPS trail information system in cooperation with Fanshawe College.

## Other

Possible photo contest – public participation  
Enhanced environmental education website.