



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44

Pages

A. Open Meeting

B. Land Acknowledgment

The Municipality of North Grenville acknowledges that the Municipality operates on the territory of the Anishnabek.

We recognize all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who now call North Grenville their home. We respect and support the need for cultivating a strong relationship, and we commit to Indigenous-informed decision making to foster the path towards reconciliation.

C. Approval of the Agenda

D. Disclosure of Interest

E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - June 24, 2024

1

F. Delegations

G. Decision Items

H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports

1. Maple Leaf Visible from Space, Nadia Diakun-Thibault
2. Terms of Reference 6
3. Water Security Update
4. Tree Canopy/ Site Alteration Bylaw Update, Nadia Diakun-Thibault and Fred Schueler
5. Green Burial Update, Clerk's Office 9
6. Developers and Greenspace Development discussion

I. Other Business

1. Items for Next Meeting

J. Public Questions

K. Adjournment



MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

No 6
Monday, June 24, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44

MEMBERS PRESENT Peter Friedrichs
Philip Fry
Fred Schueler
Nadia Diakun-Thibault

MEMBERS ABSENT Co-Chair Councillor Kristin Strackerjan
Mayor Nancy Peckford
Co-Chair John Palmer

STAFF PRESENT Cheryl Fequet
Mike Finley, Director of Public Works
Senterre McKenna, Committee Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT Co-Chairs absent, committee voted that Nadia will acts as chair.

A. Open Meeting

The meeting was opened at 6:10 PM.

Discussion about clearer communication from council. Nancy Peckford addressed the lack of clear direction. Fred Schueler requested some more direction from council as to which direction the committee should focus on. Nancy Peckford noted there are long and short term goals. He added he would like to have Conservation meeting information shared with EAAC after they met so that EAAC Members can discuss.

B. Land Acknowledgment

The Land Acknowledgment was read by Nadia Diakun-Thibault.

C. Approval of the Agenda

Moved By Fred Schueler
Seconded By Peter Friedrichs

Be it resolved that:

The Environmental Action Advisory Committee Meeting agenda for June 24, 2024 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

D. Disclosure of Interest

None.

E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved By Fred Schueler
Seconded By Philip Fry

Be it resolved that:

The minutes of the Environmental Action Advisory Committee meeting held on May 27, 2024 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2024

F. Delegations

None.

G. Decision Items

1. Terms of Reference
Moved to next meeting

H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports

1. Herbicides

Philip Fry presented information regarding herbicide spraying. He is requesting a from to Lanark County and UCLG regarding restricting spraying. He presented a copy of a letter from Michelle Poilly, against spraying in her area. He has some information regarding spraying at a specific location, all the broadleaf plants are struggling, except in invasive species, specifically poison ivy. He suggested to the members to gather additional information to present to the committee at a later date. Fred Schueler noted that friends of Lanark County had a

successful plan for herbicides, he will reach out to them again for additional information. Mike Findley added, that the municipal roads are reviewed by the county weed inspector. He further explained less than half that were identified were sprayed this year. Philip Fry noted that the roads are identified by a number, according to his records, this information isn't clear. Nancy Peckford added Council and UCLG have discussed this topic previously, they looked into a spray policy, they haven't come up with an alternative solution. There are some area with have opted out of spraying, like Rideau Lakes. Future models will be reviewed and considered for alternative solutions. Nadia Diakun-Thibault suggested that the committee is tasked to research and present to council in the future. Mike Findley added there isn't enough staff support to complete extensive research on a alternative solution and therefore they have had to use the weed inspectors decision. Mike Findley noted if anyone is concerned about weeds to contact the weed inspector.

2. Habitat Garden Update

Philip Fry noted the Habitat Garden launch. Steps are being taken to open a Habitat Garden at other schools. It was very successful and opened with many in attendance. Nancy Peckford added that there was a lot of effort made to its success. She thanked the committee for all the work put in to its completion. Nadia Diakun-Thibault noted she was at the graduation ceremony, and spoke to many parents about the garden. The children and wanted to be involved and enjoyed the process. Philip Fry noted the lost land in North Grenville, he thinks hands on experience is practical work, and the children are able to benefit from that knowledge.

3. Water Security Update

Peter Friedrichs presented Loss of Woodlands in Kemptville- about water and land security in EQuinelle, Oxford Village areas are affected. He compared past and current arial maps of Colonnade Rd., EQuinelle, Kemptville Public School, Tempo Sub Division, Oxford Village area, Oxford Village Phase 2, The Creek, Somerville Rd., Brookside Park (Phase 2). He noted the loss of acreage. .662 total acres lost. The committee discussed the findings. Nancy Peckford inquired on the value of the land that was assessed. Noted there are more public green paces per capita that is publicly managed, forested lands, and are committed to preserving. Nancy Peckford noted the French Catholic School has announced they are building on a Kemptville Campus site, on a location where a poplar tree grove was at the end of its life. Phillip Fry would like to propose integration of a regreen area around the new school site, planting new trees to recoup for the lost grove.

4. Tree Canopy/Site Alteration Update

Amend Agenda to Tree Canopy/ Site Alternation Update to Tree Canopy/ Site Alternation Bylaw Update

Nadia Diakun -Thibault inquired about greenspace requirements for developers. Nancy Peckford added there is discussion with developers about greenspace provisions, and any new developments it is in their building contracts. The MNG has discussed added parks and greenspaces to existing developments. There are prescriptive requirements for all developers.

Action: Nadia Diakun -Thibault and Fred will present, moved to next meeting.

5. Mayor's Task Force Update

Nancy Peckford noted they had their first meeting and there is a task force on clean municipalities, and added there will be a presentation at a future meeting.

6. Maple Leaf in Trees Visible from Space - Fred Schueler and Nadia Diakun-Thibault

Fred Schueler gave information about trees that are based on a Japanese design, and suggested a maple leaf design with high density trees for Crozier Park. Additional information to follow in a meeting, with a location and design plan.

I. Other Business

1. Items for Next Meeting

1. Maple Leaf in Trees Visible from Space
2. Term of Reference
3. Water Security Update
4. Tree Canopy/ Site Alternation Bylaw Update
5. Green Burial Update - Clerks Office
6. Developers adhere to greenspace development

J. Public Questions

None.

K. Adjournment

Moved By Nadia Diakun-Thibault
Seconded By Fred Schueler

Be it resolved that:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

CARRIED

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

Schedule "B-6" to By-Law No. 23-23

Environmental Action Advisory Committee (EAAC)

Purpose

To provide information to local residents on environmentally sustainable practices, offer advice to the North Grenville Municipal Council on initiatives to promote a green economy, and to identify near- and long-term funding opportunities as suggestions for inclusion in the yearly budget and business planning cycles of the Municipality.

The Committee shall:

- a) Research and gather information on best environmental practices for communities, with a focus on changes to be made at the Municipal level;
- b) Consider and make recommendations the ways in which the environmental footprint of the Municipality of North Grenville and its residents may be reduced;
- c) Provide ideas to Council for incentives for/recognition of residents who reduce their household waste to encourage others in the community to follow suit;
- d) Provide recommendations to Council on waste management within the Municipality;
- e) Recommend promotional materials, organize/participate in events and develop educational tools for the use of North Grenville residents to promote environmentally sustainable practices;
- f) Provide and update a consolidated list of local resources for residents with respect to recycling, composting, water conservation, and improving energy efficiency;
- g) Encourage participation of local businesses in self-driven environmental initiatives;
- h) Identify innovative, low-cost initiatives to encourage positive environmental changes;
- i) Identify long-term and future solutions to reduce waste within the Municipality;
- j) Engage with experts to identify opportunities to leverage emerging and new technologies with a direct goal of reducing waste and minimizing the environmental footprint of North Grenville residents and businesses;
- k) Receive inputs from experts on best practices and ways forward and make written recommendations to Council; and
- l) Create opportunities for public engagement with residents, local experts and community leaders, with an emphasis on engaging youth within the community; and

The Committee shall have regard to the shared priorities of the Community Strategic Plan, Committee Handbook, and Procedural By-Law.

Membership

The Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of nine (9) volunteer members, the Mayor as an ex-officio member, and up to two (2) members of

Council,, all of whom have voting rights. A staff person(s) from Public Works may also attend meetings as a liaison(s) to the Municipality.

In considering the appointment of voting members to the Committee, Council shall consider the following criteria for members of the Committee:

- a) Influential decision makers (current and retired) from various business/industry sectors,
- b) Individual members willing to take on specific responsibilities for specific areas of the program,
- c) The individual's qualifications and commitment as they relate to the Council adopted programs/policies; and
- d) Availability of members to participate in the programs/policies and attend Committee meetings.

The Municipality of North Grenville is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in every aspect of its work, including appointments to advisory committees. An increase in diversity can assist in promoting equal opportunities and memberships with a diversity of lived experiences. A more diverse membership will contribute to the work of each advisory committee. Each advisory committee shall endeavour to have balanced representation from various equity- and inclusion-seeking groups including, but not limited to, people with disabilities, francophones, Indigenous people, newcomers, older adults, racialized community members, rural residents, 2SLGBTQIA+, those facing socioeconomic disadvantage, women, minority faith-based and spiritual group members, and youth.

The Committee, by a majority vote of its members, may recommend to Council to remove any member of the Committee who does not fulfil their obligations under their appointment.

Committee Chair

The Committee shall elect a Co-Chair from among its volunteer members. The position will be elected by a secret ballot by a majority of the voting members of the Committee. A Member of Council will act as a Co-Chair

The Co-Chairs will have a concurrent four-year term. In the absence of the Co-Chairs, the Committee shall appoint an Acting Chair.

The Co-Chairs will present the Committee's reports and recommendations to Council, as required with staff support.

Advisory Experts

The Committee may invite additional content experts to attend regular meetings and to present at specific meetings in order to meet its mandate.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least six times a year - either in person or via an accessible virtual platform. Additional meetings shall be held at the call of the Co-Chairs.

Agenda packages will be sent out the week prior to the meetings and published on the Municipality's website. Draft minutes will be distributed by email to each Committee member by the Public Work's department within one (1) week following the meeting.

Quorum

Quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of the appointed members.

Votes by the Committee will be held at regular or special meetings. Decision making of the group shall be by majority vote.

Department Jurisdiction

Public Works - The Director is responsible to ensure that all associated legislative responsibilities to the Committee are fulfilled.

Staff Contact

Public Works Clerk

Administrative Support

The Clerk delegates authority to the Public Works Coordinator to provide minute taking. Agenda preparation and distribution will be done by the Public Works Coordinator in conjunction with the Co-Chairs and Clerk's division. The Clerk's division will post the agenda on the Municipal website and via the meeting calendar invitation.

Budget

The Committee will prepare an annual work plan including budget requests ahead of the budget cycle. The Director of Public Works shall bring forward budget requests of the Committee as part of the Municipal budget process.



Committee Agenda Report

Committee Name: Environmental Action Advisory Committee (EAAC)

Meeting Date: August 26, 2024

Submitted By: Chloe Preston, Municipal Clerk

Topic: Burial Options in North Grenville

Goal: Seek Input from the EAAC on Burial Options in North Grenville in relation to an upcoming Staff Report to Council

Background:

A Notice of Motion was brought forward to Council on June 4th, 2024 as stated below:

Whereas the Municipality of North Grenville has care and control of the operations of the Kemptville Union Cemetery; AND

Whereas there is increasing preference for cremation over earth burial and an increasing request for internment in a columbarium; AND

Whereas a columbarium is a low maintenance capital investment for cemeteries which provides for an efficient use of space within a cemetery; AND

Whereas the sale of niches in a columbarium could generate additional revenue that would offset the care and maintenance of the municipally operated cemetery; AND

Now therefore be it resolved that Council direct staff to report back to Council in the month of September with a variety of options for a burial and internment including columbarium for the Kemptville Union Cemetery including capital implications for the 2025 budget.

For Committee reference, the Municipality has had care and control of the Kemptville Union Cemetery since approximately the 1970s. Under the Cemeteries Act, any abandoned cemetery or relinquished cemetery becomes the care and control of the municipality of jurisdiction.

The Municipality, under the joint care of the Clerk's Division and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, diligently maintain and operate the Kemptville Union Cemetery. It has been observed that the cemetery has not been operating in a cost-recovery position and that the fees and charges for cemetery services have not been modified in over eight (8) years.

Staff have been approached by a variety of companies in the past offering potential solutions and modifications to improve the desire and use of the Kemptville Union Cemetery, one of which was the installation of a columbarium. Prior to the Notice of Motion rising to Council, staff had already begun preparations for a capital request in the 2025 budget. The trends in burial desires have been shifting over the past decade away from traditional coffin burial, especially towards cremation burial. Many municipal cemeteries have installed columbarium to increase their use and reduce the maintenance requirements on staff.

The discussion that was had at the Council table on June 4th expanded the original direction of staff to include a wider approach to burial solutions in North Grenville. As a result, staff have begun to examine and research the following alternative burial options:

- Columbarium
- Green Burials
- Pet Cemeteries

Staff are clear that we believe that there is no singular solution to burials in North Grenville and that as a progressive municipality we are exploring all options for people's wishes for their final resting place.

How Does This Relate To The Committee:

Staff are aware that the EAAC has been interested in Green Burials in North Grenville and that there may be some apprehension to the encouragement of cremation due to environmental impacts.

How Does This Relate To The Council Strategic Plan:

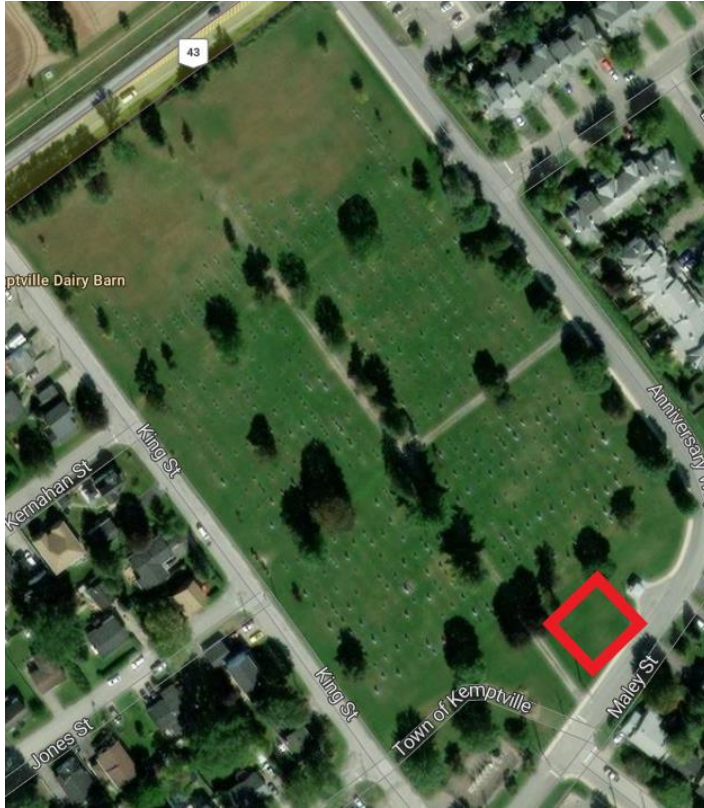
Strategic Pillar: Balanced and Environmentally Sustainable Growth
Strategic Pillar: A Strong, Connected, and Vibrant Community

Outcome:

To begin, staff have completed a significant amount of research which is summarized at a high level below;

1. Pet Cemeteries
This is a difficult solution for the municipality to undertake for a variety of reasons because under the Cemeteries Act, pets are not permitted to be buried in the same cemetery as human remains. As a result, the only option to provide this service in North Grenville would be to create an additional cemetery designated to non-human burials, draft a new by-law relating to the operations, rules and regulations of the non-human cemetery and have them approved by the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO). In staff's research, not many municipalities operate pet cemeteries for this reason and leave the service exclusively to the private sector.
2. Columbarium
A rising trend for after-death wishes and pre-arrangements have shifted to cremation, especially in the past decade. Within the last year alone, the Kemptville Union Cemetery has seen a shift to 80% cremation burials. As a result, and in an effort to reduce maintenance requirements, staff have explored the option of a columbarium.

After review of the current mapped sections of the cemetery and to reduce the impact on the remaining burial sites, staff recommend installing a columbarium on the unmapped portion at the south portion of the cemetery property along Maley Street (see image below).



Staff are hopeful that the installation of the columbarium will help to generate much needed income and reserve funding to continue the operations of the Kemptville Union Cemetery, even after all burial plots are sold. Staff believe that installing a columbarium which has buildable/expansion ability will provide the best future options. Furthermore, it is proven that columbarium reduce the amount of staff time required to operate and maintain cemeteries which is especially important for North Grenville as we currently do not have a dedicated cemetery division, but rather a shared

operation between two departments with limited resources.

A recent amendment to the regulations regarding the care and maintenance funds, allows for cemeteries to pull from the care and maintenance trust accounts for the purchase of a columbarium. This could potentially reduce the capital impact on the 2025 budget.

In order to execute this process, a landscape architect would need to be contracted

for drawings and plans to maximize the planning, keeping in mind future growth as well as ensuring the creation of a natural, somber, and peaceful location for individuals to visit and remember their loved ones. An initial concept idea is shown below



3. Green Burial/Green Cemetery

After initially receiving an information package on Green Burials and conducting research into green burial options in Ontario, staff have found that a number of green cemeteries exist across the province (however more exclusively to Southern Ontario). The closest operation in Eastern Ontario is with the City of Kingston which is not yet operational and continues to be in the by-law review stages with the BAO. Staff have spoken to cemetery administration staff in Kingston and Cobourg about green burial options and have planned a site visit later in the Fall to visualize and see operations. In discussion with the City of Kingston, staff noted an immediate uptick in desire of use for the cemetery when Council initially passed the by-law creating the green option. However, they have not been able to commence operations until their review period has concluded with the BAO. This brings an interesting set of questions and considerations for North Grenville in the evaluation phases. Green burial in essence is a more environmentally friendly option for individuals not wanting embalming or cremation and is a relatively quick process that involves burial in either a shroud or a specific decomposable coffin.

Staff have reviewed the information provided and observe a few operational constraints that currently prevent green burials in North Grenville:

- Kemptville Union Cemetery only operates May-October each year, meaning that green burials would only be available at-need and could not be pre-arranged given death's unpredictability. Furthermore, at the current time, staff could not accommodate year-round operations in the Kemptville Union Cemetery due to staffing numbers and lack of capital equipment available to penetrate the ground in significant cold spells
- Without a dedicated cemetery division, staff fear that the popularity around green burials would result in high demand on a thinly staffed joint operation

Originally the proposal for green burials was presented to be included in the northern portion of the Kemptville Union Cemetery (see image below).



However, with the expansion of County Road 43 and the planned sidewalk to swoop into the cemetery project, staff do not support this location for green burials. A four-lane highway, even with trees, would not provide a somber environment that is often associated with green burials.

As a result, if Council were to seek to investigate green burials as an option for North Grenville, staff would recommend creating an alternate site, perhaps in the rural portion of the municipality (similar to many other green burial sites) that can pay homage to the environment, forestry, and environmental reflection as a final resting place for individuals. In an initial internal staff consultation meeting, multiple alternative locations were identified as potential green burial sites on municipally owned lands. The process to approve a site for the creation of a cemetery would be lengthy, but possible, should Council seek to engage in this process.

The underlying issue for the operation of a green burial cemetery will be the operational constraints in staffing as North Grenville operates without one currently in an at need capacity for the Kemptville Union Cemetery. As services and the municipality expand, this could be a consideration for Council but currently staffing levels would not be able to accommodate the popularity of green burials.

Should North Grenville proceed with Green Burials, an independent green burial by-law would need to be drafted, approved by Council and sent to the BAO for final approval. The current estimated timeframe provided to staff in investigations was eighteen (18) months. The timeframe on approval of a new cemetery location has not been specifically identified and may be location specific.