



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

**Monday, March 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Held in Meeting Room 1, 285 County Road 44**

MEMBERS PRESENT Co-Chair Fred Schueler  
Mayor Nancy Peckford  
Nadia Diakun-Thibault  
Peter Friedrichs  
Sasha Honsl

MEMBERS ABSENT Co-Chair Councillor Kristin Strackerjan

STAFF PRESENT Senterre McKenna, Committee Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT Deputy Mayor John Barclay  
Councillor Doreen O'Sullivan  
Councillor Deb Wilson  
Kelly Laselle  
Schalene Scott  
Megan Moretti  
Lucy Moretti  
Aiden Moretti  
Isabelle Lasalle  
Paisley Scott  
Ella Laselle  
Sophia Moretti

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**A. Open Meeting**

Co-Chair Fred Schueler called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**B. Land Acknowledgment**

The land acknowledgement was read by Fred Schueler.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**#EAAC-2025- 9**

Moved By Nadia Diakun-Thibault  
Seconded By Sasha Honsl

*Be it resolved that:*

*The Committee agenda for March 24, 2025 be approved as presented.*

**CARRIED**

**D. Disclosure of Interest**

None.

**E. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**#EAAC-2025- 10**

Moved By Sasha Honsl

Seconded By Nadia Diakun-Thibault

*Be it resolved that:*

*The following meeting minutes be approved as circulated:*

1. February 24, 2025

**CARRIED**

1. Committee Meeting Minutes - February 24, 2025

**F. Delegations**

None.

1. Oxford on Rideau Public School - Habitat Student Garden, Crozier Park

Students from Oxford on Rideau presented their native plant habitat garden, highlighting what they've learned about gardening and how it benefits both animals and plants. They shared their bean growth experiment and the results of their research. The students are focused on maintaining the garden throughout the spring and summer, having researched which plants work best together. Over the winter, they weather-proofed the area to protect the garden. They named the garden the Gnome Garden. The students requested an update from Parks and Recreation regarding the installation of water tanks for the garden.

The Mayor inquired if the planting occurred last fall. The students explained that they had collected and germinated plants through a stratification process, and plan to plant them this spring. John Barclay

asked the students to elaborate on stratification, a process they learned from former EAAC Member Philip Fry.

Fred Schueler commented that while the plants will grow tall, the area is part of the Smiths Falls Limestone Plains, where most plants thrive in shallow soil.

The students were selected by their peers to represent the Grade 6 class. They wanted to present as school representatives to emphasize the garden's importance to the community and inspire others. They hope to attract butterflies to the garden this summer.

**Action Item:** The Committee Clerk will follow up with Parks and Recreation regarding the installation of water tanks.

The chair requested a brief pause for a photo with the students.

The students and members of the public left the meeting at 6:45 pm.

#### **G. Decision Items**

None.

#### **H. Correspondence/Information Items/Reports**

##### **1. Roadside Pollinator Habitat Planting**

The attached information will be reviewed by the Members, and Michelle Cavanaugh from South Nation Conservation will give a presentation at the April meeting. Nadia expressed concerns about roadside pollination, mentioning recent significant trimming on her road, which contradicts efforts to support pollinators by cutting back in the spring.

Fred Schueler raised concerns about trillium seeds and other ground plants, as they are impacted by roadside trimming.

Peter Friedrichs suggested adding this issue to the workplan, emphasizing the need for a clear definition of areas and zones with native plants to ensure their protection.

##### **2. Bishops Mills Cheese Factory Proposal**

Fred Schueler shared the history of the former Bishops Mills Cheese Factory. The original building was destroyed by fire, but the land is now owned by the municipality. A plaque currently marks the location of the fire. Fred noted that while the site has many trees, the soil is poor due to the fire, and invasive species like cathartic buckthorn are a persistent issue, harming other plants.

He proposed controlling the invasive species and planting native plants, along with adding a dock to the water to encourage interest in the land.

The Mayor suggested inviting Phil Mosher, Deputy Clerk of Planning, and Mark Guy, Director of Parks and Recreation, to a future meeting to discuss the potential for a future park at this location.

A joint meeting with ACHAC, the Bishops Mills Historical Society, and EAAC was also proposed for a more in-depth discussion, with the possibility of including this project in the 2026 budget, along with commemorative tree care and management.

3. Roadside Trimming

Correspondence was received from Mike Finley, Director of Public Works, regarding tree trimming along the road.

Mayor Nancy Peckford mentioned that there had been an in-depth discussion with the County in the past about trimming, particularly due to concerns about native plants and wild parsnip. The County is concerned about road clearing in the summer and the absence of snow fences in the winter. The Mayor, who sits on the board for good roads, will be attending a meeting next week and will bring up this discussion.

The members discussed tree trimming within municipal boundaries and County roads and have requested that Mike Finley attend the next meeting to address their concerns.

4. Water Security Update

Peter Friedrich noted that he did receive an update received from Public Works department. He had a copy of the RFP for the servicing master plan update. He wanted to have Mike Finley at the meeting to give a more comprehensive update on the timeline for the report. The Municipal website usually published the annual wastewater report, and the other is the annual performance report on the local drinking water. Peter has requested the publication of the 2024 reports so he can incorporate this information. Members suggested including well water testing results for contaminated water reports for North Grenville.

The water Sustainability report will be a standing item.

5. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be presented to Council on April 8th for approval.

**I. Other Business**

Peter Friedrichs shared an article from The Humm Paper regarding mini forest in the communities and a specific article of a mini forest in the Kingston area, and they are seeking volunteers.

**1. Items for Next Meeting**

Tree Care and Management By-law, Doreen O'Sullivan

Delegation- Roadside Pollinators, Michelle Cavanaugh from South Nation Conservation

Bishop's Mills Cheese Factory Park, Mark Guy, Director of Parks and Recreation

Water Security Update, Peter Friedrichs

Workplan Review, Sasha Honsl

**J. Public Questions**

None.

**K. Adjournment**

**#EAAC-2025- 11**

Moved By Nadia Diakun-Thibault

Seconded By Peter Friedrichs

*Be it resolved that:*

*The meeting be adjourned at 7:58 p.m.*

**CARRIED**