

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE ROOM C
MINUTES**

Present: C. Oakes (Chair) M. Wilson
A. Baron A. Miller
A. Singh V. Capmourteres
L. Renzetti

Regrets: L. Todd

City: A. Nix, A. Labbe, M. Myhill

External Groups: Mike Taylor – Granite Homes
Pete Graham – Acorn Developments
David Aston – MHBC
Ken Burrell – NRSI
Dave Stephenson – NRSI

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Call and Certification of Quorum

Attendance was noted and a quorum was declared.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None

4. Water Softener Environmental Impact Study – Emily Stahl (Water Services)

- The large number of salt-based ion exchange (IX) residential water softeners have an impact on the urban water cycle which results in overall higher water consumption and salt discharged into the environment
- Water softeners may have impacts on the City's ability to protect and conserve water quality and quantity as well as aquatic wildlife – salts are not removed by conventional treatment processes
- The City is working with the Region of Waterloo to see if there is a water saving opportunity
- Currently testing technology that doesn't require salt – it works by moving molecules to break down calcium
- Project Scope and Objectives: Quantify the amount of salt and water used for residential IX water softening currently and in future (with existing trends), assess

impacts to water cycle, alternative future scenarios, and policy options to mitigate impacts

- Need a strategic approach to encourage use of salt and water free alternatives

5. 89 Beechwood Avenue

- A. Nix, Environmental Planner with the City of Guelph, reviewed the staff report and was available to answer questions from the Environmental Advisory Committee.

General Comments:

- Water balance – needs to recognise natural heritage features (creek) within the scope, and should consider existing conditions and make case to enhance
- Give consideration to the online dam and pond within the forest that creates wetland habitat which could affect ground water levels and should be investigated
- No sub-watershed study for this area
- There are existing downstream flooding constraints that cannot be impacted through development

Comments from NRSI and Discussion with EAC:

- Presented development concept and plan outlining survey locations
- Site has diverse history of manipulation
- The dam for the online pond has 2 foot opening that hasn't been maintained but does have impact on stream hydrology/morphology
- Confident that comments can be addressed in revised TOR
- The proposed development is anticipating the trail to be moved by less than 1 metre
- Presented map with anticipated survey locations for birds and amphibians
- Closed chimney on building – Chimney Swifts not a concern
- Recommendations in EIS will consider pollinator friendly species
- Still awaiting info from MNRF for bats – building does not appear to be best location for bat habitat
- Few records of wintering raptors and habitat does not meet SWH criteria (size is too small), however records may support habitat function at a local scale
- Fish habitat in Howitt Creek could be characterized based on barrier downstream at Wellington St. which limits fish access
- EAC would like to see fish habitat analysis to consider presence of fish within the reach adjacent to the site in addition to the up and downstream considerations
- Trail crosses into property and relocation will be determined further into the process – relying on parks to redesign and integrate new trail outside of the property
- As more information is received there will be better understanding of ground water depth and site suitability for underground parking
- Freehold units that would be sold – not looking to obtain ownership of property
- Consider opportunities beyond enhancement – zoning could perhaps further enhance and protect natural heritage features which could be incorporated into TOR
- Consider using existing background data to look at fish and aquatic habitat and thermal regime
- Need to characterize fish population to help determine what is trying to be managed

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- Winter raptor habitat needs to be reconsidered – survey would be helpful

The Environmental Advisory Committee went into Committee to discuss.

Moved by L. Renzetti and seconded by V. Capmourteres,

THAT a revised EIS TOR is provided which includes:

- **A more detailed description of the proposed undertaking recognizing the storm water management facilities and the potential for underground parking as part of the development;**
- **Clarification as it relates to the field study program including point/plot locations for amphibian, breeding bird and details on the methodology for crepuscular bird surveys;**
- **Clarification as it related to the classification of fish habitat associated with Howitt Creek and any required field studies (if necessary) to classify the stream;**
- **Clarification that the EIS will include an evaluation of significance for Significant Wildlife Habitat and Habitat for Significant Species, as applicable and that this be carried into the impact assessment;**
- **Consideration for the protection of surface water and ground water features including their functions, and supported by a feature based water balance associated with Howitt Creek; and,**
- **Identification of Opportunities for protection, enhancement and restoration of trees within the Urban Forest as part of the EIS.**

**Motion Carried
-Unanimous-**

6. EnviroGuide Presentation

Adele Labbe explained the project to the Environmental Advisory Committee and asked for feedback.

7. Approval of Minutes as amended from January 11, 2017.

Moved by Ash Baron and seconded by Lynette Renzetti,

THAT the Minutes from the January 11, 2017 meeting be approved as amended.

**Motion Carried
- 6 moved, 1 abstained-**

8. Correspondence & Information

- Next meeting: Harts Lane EIR and South End Rec Centre EIS TOR
- Natural Heritage Action Plan Report going to Committee of the Whole March 6

- Vice Chair position available – need a committee member to volunteer

9. Other Business

Matt Wilson informed the Committee of the City of Kitchener's permeable paver monitoring program.

10. Next Meeting- March 8, 2017

11. Adjourn

Moved by Matt Wilson and seconded by Ash Baron,

**Motion Carried
-Unanimous-**

CHAIRMAN