



Date: 2020-12-04

From: Brittany Drury, Clerk

Subject Township Climate Actions – Memo Report

Report LEG2020-27

Recommendation

That report LEG2020-27 be received for information.

Background

At their inaugural meeting on November 13, 2020, the newly established Climate Action Committee requested that staff of the Township provide the Committee with information regarding existing Township actions and programs implemented to combat climate change.

Analysis

Upon polling Township staff, the following responses were received:

Zach Carson, Facilities Manager (November 26, 2020):

'Hi Brittany,

I've attached the Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan as well as the report from back in 2019- lots of info here.

Also, check out these webpages:

<https://cedco-op.com/projects/derby-arena/>

<https://cedco-op.com/projects/shallow-lake-arena/>

While we don't own the solar, the space we lease on the Township's rooftops is producing green energy and the company's website provides real time information about the energy each project produces as well as historical and comparative data. For example as of today the project at SLCC.

Location: 550 Princess Street, Shallow Lake

Area: Shallow Lake

Size: 250 kW

Co-op Share: 100%

Lifetime Energy: 1,369,351 kWh

CO2 Emissions Saved: 546,645 kg'

The Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan has been attached to this memo as Appendix A.

Jenn Burnett, Senior Planner (November 30, 2020):

'Hi Britt,

In short, by following provincial legislation and County policies we incorporate measures to combat climate change in our planning documents.

"The policies and procedures that are built into the planning process help address/assess vulnerabilities related to the impacts of climate change (both in prevention and reaction to events).

The PPS 2020, in Sections 2 & 3 directs decision makers to protect the natural environment and direct development away from hazards, whether they are natural or man-made. The PPS requires that the applicant of any planning application demonstrate compliance with the policies of the PPS, 2020 and directs Council to evaluate if the proposal complies with the policy. This is why I appreciate the comments that come back from the GSCA. They provide us with information that evaluates the feature, assesses the impact on the system and states whether or not the application complies with the policies.

Existing policies in the PPS, County OP, Ontario Regulation 151/06 and even our zoning by-law recognize vulnerabilities related to the impacts of climate change. The Province prohibits development in significant woodlands and wetlands and their adjacent lands- the County mapping shows us where these areas are so that we can direct development away from the area. The O. Reg 151/06 identifies no-build areas adjacent to lakes and rivers. The zoning by-law provides setbacks from water features, significant slopes etc. These measures

are in place to protect people and natural systems from the impacts of climate change and to ensure that development does not contribute to it.

The County Official Plan addresses Climate Change in Section 7.13 and provides "principles and policies to assist with mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change." This policy applies to Georgian Bluffs as our OP does not specifically address climate change. The Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) 2017 does not appear to specifically use the term 'climate change' but we know that the policies in the NEP are intended to promote conservation and deter development or site alteration.

We see and hear about the impacts of climate change on a regular basis. Our long-term residents provide us with information on the changes that have occurred over time on their lands i.e. increase of water ponding, disappearance of water, death/growth of trees, change in the animal species and frequency of sightings. We are responding to calls related to shoreline erosion and evaluating applications for shoreline rehabilitation. Our roads crews respond to calls re: flooding, overwhelmed ditches and damaged shoreline roads”.'

Additionally, staff would like to highlight the use of a partial sand/salt mixture in winter road maintenance procedures. This mixture combines salt to reduce ice on Township roadways, while limiting the environmental impact of said salt through the use of partial sand.

Respectfully Submitted: Brittany Drury, Clerk