

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Township of Melancthon Environmental Sustainability Committee held a meeting on May 14, 2021 at 10:34 a.m. electronically through ZOOM. The following members were present: Chair; Margaret Mercer, Wayne Hannon (10:38) and Darren White (10:33). Also present were: Donna Funston, Environmental Sustainability Committee Secretary.

1. Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m

2. Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Mercer, Seconded by White, that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None.

4. Approval of Draft Minutes – April 9, 2021

- Moved by White, Seconded by Mercer, the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Committee held on April 9, 2021 be approved as circulated. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

6. General Business

1. Sustainability Day

June 5, 2021 is Sustainability Day in Melancthon, which will be virtual this year and many participants have been lined up to participate in this event.

2. Discussion regarding Future Direction

Follow up with the NVCA tree planting program and see if any grants to plant trees available. Main goal is to raise awareness and identify problem areas. Chair Mercer will put together a brief summary for the next ESC meeting.

3. Other/Addition(s)

7. Delegations

1. 10:36 a.m.- Caroline Mach, Dufferin County Forestry Manager

Chair Mercer welcomed Caroline and Ernie to the meeting. Caroline did a presentation regarding Forest Related Invasive Species. The presentation is attached to these minutes. Discussion around Gypsy Moths and that the infestation last year was imported from Europe, this goes in to an outbreak and naturally crashes. Aerial spray and ground spray can be used to control the gypsy moths but the decision to use or not is made by each authority responsible for the area. Stressed trees are more at risk. Discussed hogweed which causes painful rash to humans.

2. 11:00 a.m. - Ernie Lynch, Dufferin Phrag Fighters

Phrag is in rural and urban areas, it seems to like wet areas. The roads department can maintain the road allowance and making landowners aware of phrag on their properties can also help to control the problem. Awareness is a big issue it was estimated that 5% of people are aware and closer to 2% actually know what phrag is and its effects. Dufferin Phrag Fighters each summer runs a bag the phrag event. Phrag is spread by truck tires and seeds blowing around. Each head contains around 2,000 seeds. Estimate of \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year to keep phrag under control, if it gets out of control estimate is \$90,000 to \$100,000. Phrag pushes all other plants out to establish itself and takes over letting nothing else grow. Can be up to 20 feet tall. Suggested that this Committee recommend to Council to put some money in the budget to try and control before becoming too costly. Estimate of \$5,000 - \$10,000 per acre for spray, other Townships are currently using a spray company so possibly grouping the County together could bring the cost down some. Also, suggested the roads department keep inventory of problem areas. While patrolling an inventory list could be kept of the affect areas, number of acres, established areas and a break down of current threat and potential threat. Chemical is not certified in Ontario. Another suggestion was to address contractors that come into the Township. Bringing in fill or doing work in the Township, make sure equipment has been cleaned before being unloaded. The Township newsletter could be a way to educate people and make them aware, Melancthon is a large farming community which brings trucks in and out of the Township allowing phrag to be brought in. Cedar trees are also "bullies" and could possibly be used to push out phrag. As the season progresses they turn dark purple flower which is easy to detect, they are also taller than cattails and natural wetlands would be the first place to look to find them. To get rid of phrag need to clip seeds and cut stock then bag it up.

8. Confirmation of Meeting

- Moved by Hannon, Seconded by White, that all actions of the Members and Officers of the Environmental Sustainability Committee with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Committee on the above date be hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed; and each motion, resolution and other actions taken by the Committee

Members and Officers at the meeting held on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed. Carried.

9. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

- Moved by White, Seconded by Hannon, that we adjourn the Environmental Sustainability Committee at 11:50 a.m. to meet again on Friday June 11, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

CHAIR

SECRETARY