
MINUTES

Green Advisory Committee

MONDAY, March 9, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Civic Square: 60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4

Council Ante Room

HYBRID/ZOOM: <https://welland-ca.zoom.us/j/82976818950>

Present: Councillor David McLeod (**CM**), Sydney Tomaino (**ST**), Therese DeAgazio (**TD**), Carolyn Fast (Chair) (**CF**), Rob Repovs (**RR**), Tom Liszt (**TL**)

Absent with Regrets: Grant Munday, Director of Planning and Development Services (**GM**), Paige Fournier, Planning Technician II (Staff Liaison) (**PF**), Rachael Babirad - Customer Service Clerk (**RB**)

Also Present: Nicolas Aiello, Planning Supervisor – Policy (**NA**), Nora Reid (**NR**)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 3:32 P.M.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“Welland is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk (Hat-i-wen-DA-ronk), the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-no-SHOW-nee), and the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-ihNAH-bey), including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Welland today. Welland stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.”

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mover: (CM)

That the agenda for March 9, 2026, meeting of Green Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Conflict of Interest – “Having reviewed the agenda, does any committee member have a need to disclose a direct or indirect pecuniary interest with respect to today’s agenda.”

THERE WERE NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mover: (TD)

That the minutes of January 12, 2026, meeting of the Green Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS - None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Tree Giveaway Volunteers

(NA) Stated that the city is looking for volunteers for the tree giveaway taking place on April 18 and April 25. In past, we have had three or four volunteers per date. If anyone has a preferred date they are to let (NA) know and an email will be sent out with the schedule. (NA) Stated that if the resident does not pick up their designated tree after a certain time, the tree is free to be given out to residents on the second date (April 25).

(CM) Recommended that we put a certain number of trees aside on April 18 as well for no show residents to give away to at the end of that day. Also recommended that some trees be set aside for residents that were not aware that the tree giveaway was happening and did not have the opportunity to reserve one.

(TD) Agreed to the idea of having 50% available for giveaway on the first day and the other 50% on the last day, not 100% access on the last day.

(NA) Stated that there were a lot of trees left over on the last day last year that did end up getting given away.

(NA) Stated he will speak to Communications staff to see if the city's web site can be changed as it states that the excess trees will be given away only on the last day.

(ST) Suggested that we get the residents information that did not reserve a tree but would like one and call them at the end of the day if there are any trees still available.

5.2 Commitment to Allocating Tree-Planting Funds

(CM) Stated that there was \$30,000.00 put in the 2026 budget specifically for tree planting. That \$30,000.00 will remain there for the 2027 budget. (CM) Stated

that he would like to see that as a reserve fund, so it continues to fund trees into the future. (CM) Stated that he hopes to report back to the Committee on what we can do with funding the tree campaign at the next meeting.

5.3 Urban Forestry Guidelines Draft

(NA) Stated he will forward the updated guidelines received from the consultant to the Committee members tomorrow. (NA) Summarized the main points in the document. Stated that it would be advantageous to discuss these guidelines at the next meeting once the Committee has the opportunity to review them.

5.4 Community Education Priority

(CF) Stated that last year the Committee agreed that they needed to get ahead of the earth day and the community clean up event and get the message out to the public early so they would know in advance that it is coming. (CF) Stated that increased knowledge might encourage participation in clean ups in their neighbourhoods. (CF) Stated that we should promote more citywide cleanups including how residents can get involved, why residents should get involved, etc. (CM) Suggested that we ask through Council to task the Region to come up with a way to stop the garbage from blowing out of recycling bins as this is where a large portion of the garbage is coming from. (CM) Suggested some type of netting over the recycling bin that would not allow the garbage to escape. (CM) Stated that staff are paid to come up solutions to these types of challenges.

(TD) Stated that if the Region is approached to come up with a solution to remedy this situation, the cost should also be covered by the Region.

(CM) Suggested inviting a regional representative to the next Committee meeting to discuss how they are trying to fight the garbage issue and then make suggestions to Council with what we learn. (CM) Stated he will reach out to a regional representative to invite them to the next Committee meeting held on April 13.

(NA) Stated that he will reach out to Communications regarding promoting the citywide clean up initiative as soon as possible through a media release and social media and web pages.

(CM) Suggested that when the tree giveaway is happening that the residents are also given information about pollinator gardens or hand out pollinator seeds with information attached.

(TD) Stated that the library holds a seed program on Saturdays and perhaps that group could set up a table near the tree giveaway table to inform the public about pollination.

(CM) Stated that he would speak to the Director of Community Services regarding placing more garbage bins in the city parks.

6. MOTIONS – None

7. OTHER BUSINESS - None

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Outreach to Environmental Committees / Niagara Falls

(CF) Stated that this meeting is coming up and (TD) and (TL) would like to attend that meeting. The meeting will be a basic overview of what is going on with all the Committees.

8.2 Development Tree Planting Fees

(TD) Looking for clarification on development tree planting fees.

(NA) Advised that the developer is initially charged for the trees. The discussion between that fee and the tax payer and the developer is up to them. The city does not charge the taxpayer.

8.3 649 Buchner Road

(NA) Stated that he received an email that was to be forwarded to the Committee regarding the above-mentioned property. There are protected wetlands on this property, and the residents were hearing tree cutting happening on the property and some of the neighbours were concerned that they were illegally removing the wetlands. (NA) Stated that he was able to confirm that the individuals did take out a forestry practices permit so they were permitted to do proper harvesting. (NA) Stated that there was a suggestion to have the permit posted to avoid this type of situation. (TL) Agreed with having the permit posted to let the public know the proper documentation was received.

8.4 Pollinator Gardens

(NR) Stated that she would like to see pollinator gardens started in many of the city's public parks. She would like to see more signs posted explaining what the pollinator gardens are there for. She would like the city to encourage residents to start their own pollinator gardens on their own property. (NR) Suggested that the city could offer some type of grant to incentivize residents to plant pollinator gardens.

(CM) Stated that we need to find a way to make it easier for residents to start these

gardens.

(NA) Stated that staff have been working on a community pollinator program. It will be more voluntary based and utilize public lands. Once staff have a draft ready, they will be presenting it to the Committee.

(NR) Suggested that if the city were to hand out these seeds to residents, they should be accompanied with directions on how to plant them.

(NA) Suggested that the Committee prepare a list of ideas and recommendations that can be forwarded to Community Services staff as they are preparing this program.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: (CM)

That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 pm.

CARRIED