



MINUTES

Environmental Committee Meeting
February 17, 2026 @ 5:00pm

Present: Daneille Ward, Geraldine Fitsimmons, Maeve Windle, Cindy Saucier, Melinda Crump-Phifer, Colin Lachance, Zack Anderson

Absent: Dave Pemberton

Staff Present: Kris St Thomas, Crystal LeBrun

1. WELCOME

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Members did round table introductions

3. COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION

Municipal Clerk Crystal LeBrun welcomed the committee and provided an overview of the Council Meeting Handbook, including the roles, rules, and procedures that govern how the Environmental Committee operates.

Leadership positions were nominated and filled as follows:

- Chair: Colin Lachance
- Vice Chair: Cindy Saucier
- Secretary: Melinda Crump-Phifer

Moved by Colin Lachance, seconded by Cindy Saucier. CARRIED

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

The committee reviewed the Terms of Reference — the document that outlines the committee's purpose, structure, and operating guidelines. The following sections were identified for updates

- Purpose — revised to better reflect the committee's current mandate
- Committee Objectives — updated goals and focus areas
- Committee Composition — revised membership requirements
- Meetings and Reports — updated scheduling and reporting expectations
- Appointment of Chair — expanded to include the Vice Chair and Secretary nomination process
- Staff Support — updated to reflect current staffing positions
- Youth Members — moved into the Committee Composition section

The updated Terms of Reference will be brought back to the committee for final approval.

5. RAIN BARRELL PROGRAM

The committee expressed strong support for launching a rain barrel program for South Dundas residents. Rain barrels collect and store rainwater from rooftops for later use in gardens and yards, helping to conserve water and reduce stormwater runoff.

The committee discussed several key questions to work through before the program launches:

- Should the municipality offer a subsidy (discount) to residents purchasing rain barrels, and if so, how much?
- Should the municipality sell rain barrels at cost, or with a small markup?
- How can the program be structured to keep costs affordable for residents?
- If the program generates any surplus revenue, the committee would like those funds directed to a reserve fund dedicated to future environmental initiatives.

Further details will be developed and presented at an upcoming meeting.

6. SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION TREE GIVEAWAY

The committee is enthusiastic about the South Nation Conservation (SNC) Tree Giveaway Program, which provides free trees to residents to help expand the local tree canopy. The committee would like to see more trees made available in future years. The committee also discussed the potential for partnering with local greenhouses to supplement the supply of trees available to residents — a proactive approach to increasing the program's reach and impact.

7. NEW BUSINESS/2026 GOALS

The committee identified the following standing agenda items and priorities for the year ahead:

Funding Programs Update

At each meeting, staff will provide an update on available grant and funding programs that may benefit South Dundas's environmental initiatives.

Ontario Environmental Registry Monitoring

The committee will monitor the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) — the province's online portal where the government posts proposed environmental policies, regulations, and legislation for public review and comment. The committee will review

proposals that could affect South Dundas and provide recommendations to Council when appropriate. Staff will register to receive automatic notifications from the registry. The ERO is available at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/map>

Earth Day Events — April 2026

The committee would like to mark Earth Day (April 18–22, 2026) with community-focused events. Staff will work with South Nation Conservation and the rain barrel supplier to coordinate a combined event date, potentially combining the tree giveaway and rain barrel program launch.

Environmental Communications Plan

The committee will develop a communications plan to promote environmental programs and share helpful tips and best practices with the community. This may include the use of QR codes to direct residents to online resources easily.

Tree Canopy Policy

The committee will review the municipality's Tree Canopy Policy at the next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

March 17, 2026 @ 5:30 South Dundas Municipal Centre 3rd Floor

9. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR

STAFF LIAISON