



MINUTES

Environmental Committee Meeting
March 17, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Present: Melinda Crump-Phifer
Geraldine Fitzsimmons
Cindy Saucier
Maeve Windle
Zach
Colin LaChance
Danielle Ward

Absent: Crystal Lebrun,
David Pemberton

Staff Present: Kris St. Thomas

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at: 5:34 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

THAT the EC adopt the minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting as presented.

MOVER: Geraldine Fitzsimmons

SECONDER: Cindy Saucier

CARRIED

1. CORESPONDENCE

Kemptonville Tree Canopy Policy was shared with the committee by Cindy for review.

2. FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING

The committee reviewed and discussed revisions to the Terms of Reference. The following updates were proposed:

- Rename the committee to *Environmental Advisory Committee* to better reflect its advisory role to Council
- Allow for a more flexible approach to appointing a second youth representative

- Remove “Fundraising” from the Committee Objectives

The committee agreed to proceed with revisions and bring forward a motion once finalized.

Recommended Motion (for future meeting):

THAT the Environmental Committee accept the Terms of Reference as presented or amended;
AND THAT the Committee recommend Council adopt the Terms of Reference as presented or amended.

MOVER: Geraldine Fitzsimmons

SECONDER: Zach

TREE GIVEAWAY PROGRAM

The committee discussed selecting dates for the Tree Giveaway event. The committee expressed no concerns with any of the proposed dates and recommends that staff determine the most suitable date based on availability. Committee members indicated willingness to attend and support the event if required. Staff will notify the committee once a date has been finalized.

MOVER:

SECONDER:

RAIN BARREL PROGRAM

The committee discussed timelines, logistics, and next steps for launching a Rain Barrel Program. Key discussion points included:

- South Stormont’s program allowed approximately 3 weeks for ordering and 1 week for delivery
- The importance of launching early in the season (spring) to align with rainfall
- Interest in adding an educational component highlighting that barrels are repurposed materials
- Creating an online ordering platform and communications plan
- Gauging public interest through the municipal website

The committee also recommended inviting rainbarrel.ca to a future meeting to present their services and provide details on logistics, availability, and timelines.

Staff (Crystal and Kris) will follow up with the vendor for additional information.

MOVER: Cindy Saucier

SECONDER: Zach

THAT the Environmental Committee support moving forward with the Rain Barrel Program and recommend advancing discussions with Council following the March 18 meeting.

CARRIED

EARTH DAY WEEK – COMMUNICATION PLAN

The committee discussed a communications strategy for Earth Week. The committee supports a Water Conservation theme, with a focus on:

- Educational content
- Cost-saving comparisons
- Public awareness initiatives

Ideas included:

- Weekly newspaper articles leading up to Earth Day or throughout the week
- Enhancing educational resources on the municipal website
- Utilizing existing communication channels to increase engagement

Maeve offered to support communications through available article space.

The committee also expressed interest in planning earlier for Earth Day 2027, with potential themes such as Tree Canopy.

TREE CANOPY POLICY – REVIEW

The committee began initial discussions on the Tree Canopy Policy. Key considerations:

- Preference to explore whether a by-law may be more effective than a policy
- Taking a thoughtful and measured approach before making recommendations
- Ensuring protection of wildlife habitat, including species at risk
- Balancing environmental protection with community aesthetics

The committee will continue review and discussion at a future meeting.

FUNDING PROGRAMS UPDATE

Staff are actively exploring available grant opportunities to support environmental initiatives.

Reference: <https://greenmunicipalfund.ca/funding>

ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY MONITORING (ERO)

Chris has registered for updates from the Environmental Registry of Ontario. The registry will be reviewed monthly to identify items relevant to the municipality.

NEW BUSINESS

South Nation Conservation

The committee was informed of a proposed amalgamation expected in February 2027, reducing 36 conservation authorities to 9.

Meeting Scheduling

A potential change to meeting time was discussed due to scheduling conflicts. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

That the Environmental Committee adjourned at the call of the Chair at 7:01 pm