



**Town of Aurora
Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Wendy Gaertner (Vice Chair)
Nicole Arsenault (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Shun Chen
Alain Godin
Denis Heng
Ken Turriff

Members Absent: Councillor Rachel Gilliland (Chair)
Pippette Eibel
Kristen Martens

Other Attendees: Matt Volpintesta, Manager, Parks and Fleet
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk
Emily Freitas, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the

Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Ken Turriff
Seconded by Alain Godin

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024

Moved by Ken Turriff
Seconded by Denis Heng

1. That the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

None.

8. Informational Items

8.1 Memorandum from Manager of Parks and Fleet; Re: Aurora Forest Study Recommended Policy Updates

Staff briefly provided an update on the Aurora Forest Study and highlighted updating current policies to make an immediate impact on protecting the tree canopy and urban forestry.

The Committee and staff discussed key topics including how tree canopy goals will be achieved, the study's targeted implementation date of 3-5 years and how the set targets will be achieved, the possibility of increasing the fees to cut down trees, plans to incentivize private landowners, how maintenance of the mature tree canopy can be achieved with an increase in resources, further enforcement to ensure that developers are meeting the requirements of planting trees, and support was expressed by the Committee to continue to manage emerald ash borer impact on Aurora's ash trees. It was further recommended to staff to examine non-profit organizations and their sponsorships to plant trees in support of the tree canopy.

The Committee inquired about the timeline of when the reports will be presented to Council, and staff provided an answer.

Moved by Shun Chen

Seconded by Alain Godin

1. That the memorandum regarding Aurora Forest Study Recommended Policy Updates be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding Aurora Forest Study Recommended Policy Updates be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8.2 Memorandum from Deputy Town Clerk; Re: 2025-2026 Citizen Member Recruitment for Advisory Committees

Staff presented a brief overview the memorandum, indicating that current citizen members must reapply for the second half of the Council term to

be considered for a committee of interest and all applications would be brought forward for Council's consideration following the application period. It was also indicated that the application process is open as of September 19, 2024 until November 1, 2024.

The Committee further inquired about Council's role in the recruitment process and if existing members' interests can apply again and staff provided clarification.

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Alain Godin

1. That the memorandum regarding 2025-2026 Citizen Member Recruitment for Advisory Committees be received for information.

Carried

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Ken Turriff

Seconded by Shun Chen

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Carried