

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, April 17th, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

~ A G E N D A ~

1. Call to Order
 2. Land Acknowledgement
 3. Approval of Agenda/Additions to Agenda
 4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest
 5. Approval of Minutes – March 13th, 2023
 6. Resident Engagement
 - Earth Day, Community Cleanup (Saturday, April 22)
 - Summer Tree Planting Days
 - Lawn Care Pamphlet
- CAWG
- Hyde Pond Restoration
 - Fiona Cleanup
 - CAWG Representative
7. In Camera
 8. Correspondence
 9. Adjournment

TOWN OF CORNWALL
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 13th, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Chair: Councillor Judy Herlihy
Present: Councillor Cory Stevenson
Mayor Minerva McCourt

Also: Kevin Coady – Chief Administrative Officer
Billy Ramsay – Infrastructure Supervisor
Stephen O’Shea – Utility Operator

Two Community Members

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jill MacIsaac

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chair Judy Herlihy.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair read the land acknowledgement; that the land we gather on is the ancestral land of the Mi’kmaq and we respect the Mi’kmaq as the Indigenous People of Prince Edward Island.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Stevenson and seconded by Mayor McCourt that the agenda be approved as circulated with the correction of the word sprots changed to sports and addition of discussion of No Mow May to be added to the residents' engagements.

Motion Carried

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Mayor McCourt that the Environment and Sustainability Committee minutes of February 13th, 2023, be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

At the last committee meeting, Jean Pierre from Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) presented the Switch program. The Town is waiting on detailed information from FCM regarding the administration and management of the program. The committee would like to ask Steve Ogden and Kim O’Connell from Stratford to attend a meeting and share their experience with the Switch program.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

HYDE PARK AND TRAILS RESTORATION PLAN

Cornwall Area Watershed Group (CAWG) has not met to discuss the Hyde Park and Trails Restoration Plan nor how CAWG could contribute to the Hyde Park restoration activities. The restoration project cost estimate would require Council to budget and tender the restoration plan. The Committee has requested that the appropriate funding is included in the Town's annual budget.

TERRY FOX SPORTS COMPLEX TRAIL

Bill Hogg and June Sanderson submitted a letter to the Town to do restoration work on the section of trails around the sports complex. The Committee is going to do a walk through with Spencer Hay (Planning and Development Manager) to discuss parts of the trail that have drainage issues as well as other areas that need repair. The Town has budgeted \$15,000 towards this project.

WATER SCHOOL UPDATE

Billy Ramsay (Maintenance Supervisor) is bringing Water School to Cornwall. It was discussed that the only possible location to host Water School is at the Town Hall in the council chambers and community room. Billy has reached out to Elliot River School and is waiting on a reply if the grade 5 classes are interested. Billy will be bringing displays from the Town of Stratford and fixing them up as The Towns way of paying Stratford for using them during Water School.

FIX A LEAK WEEK

Fix a Leak weeks runs March 20th to the 26th. Billy is heading this with more "Be Water Friendly" activities and give aways though the Fix a Leak website. Billy plans to get stickers that have the "Be Water Friendly" water drop and pick up a toilet as the week's big giveaway along with a couple of faucets.

The Committee thought it may be a clever idea to set up the toilet again and have the water school classes pick a name for the talking toilet that Billy set up by the reservoir back in 2022.

EARTH HOUR

There will be a social media shoutout on the Towns social media accounts for Earth Hour which is March 25th from 8:30 P.M to 9:30 P.M. The Town Hall will be turning off the lights for that hour as well.

EARTH DAY

For Earth Day the committee would like to promote a community clean-up on April 22nd from 9am till 12pm. The Town would provide garbage bags so that the bags left on the side of the road would all be the same and not get rejected by GFL. Staff will promote the clean up day on the digital sign board and social media. The Committee will discuss Earth Day in more detail at the next committee meeting in April.

GREEN LAWN REBATE

This is the second year of the Green Lawn Rebate which, in its first year approximately 24 residents' applications were received. This year the committee is looking to changing the

wording on the rebate so that residents must use natural products and not just purchase shovels and hoses through the rebate. Staff are going to look at the application and make the appropriate changes. It was also mentioned that fertilizer should be taken out as it is extremely high in nitrates and bad for the soil. Staff will check with CAWG for recommendation on the fertilizer.

HYDE POND RESTORATION

Discussion on the Hyde Pond Restoration was deferred until the April Committee Meeting as there was no one available from CAWG to discuss the project.

NO MOW MAY

The Town had, in previous years, dedicated land as naturalized areas and the Town will continue to maintain the grass around parks and buildings to its current standard. A resolution for a change to the Property Maintenance Bylaw will be discussed at the next Committee of Council meeting.

IN CAMERA

NIL

MEETING TIME

The next meeting time is Monday, April 17th, 2023, at 5:00p.m. at the Town Hall.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:58 p.m.

JUDY HERLIHY
CHAIR

BILLY RAMSAY
INFRASTRUCTURE SUPERVISOR

Healthy Lawn Tips

Keep Your lawn healthy using good maintenance practices.

Feed your lawn with compost and leave grass clippings where they fall for nutrient recycling.

Aerate your lawn every 1-2 years, this helps oxygen, water and nutrients reach the roots.

Overseed thinned areas or choose alternative ground covers in difficult spots.

Replace grass with paving stone or mulch in heavy traffic areas.

Check the lawn regularly to detect pest and other problems early.

Discover that healthy lawns are less susceptible to pest problems.

Enjoy a healthy lawn is an ideal place to relax

Mow High 6 to 8 cm or 2.5 to 3" to promote growth and prevent weeds and pests

Water Deeply 2.5 cm or 1" water a week to promote deep roots.

New Green Lawn Rebate

Rebate is up to \$50, for rental or purchase of equipment to facilitate natural lawn care.

Contact the Town for more information and to pick up or drop off an application.

Town of Cornwall

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Town of
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Town of Cornwall

Lawn Care Tips

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Natural Healthy Lawn

Healthy Lawns are a great place to spend time, and lawns serve many functions such as filtering pollution, buffering temperatures, absorbing water, and preventing soil erosion. Keep your lawn healthy by using good maintenance practices. It will better tolerate drought, temperature extremes and general wear and tear.

- Healthy, vigorous, deep rooted lawns are less susceptible to pest damage and do not usually require pesticides to control pests.
- Longer, thicker grass also prevents many pests from invading the lawn.
- Avoid excess water as the water fills up air spaces and reduces oxygen supply in the soil.
- Avoid over fertilizing as it disrupts the nutrient balance and may decrease the amount of organisms in the soil.
- Protect beneficial insects and earthworms by reducing your use of pesticides.
- Clover in your lawn is not a bad thing. It is drought tolerant and stays green.
- Overseeding, adds new grass seed to the lawn to keep the lawn dense and fill in bare patches.

Mowing

Lawns should be cut to a height of 3". More frequent mowing may be needed in spring and fall, never removing more than 1/3 of the grass blade in one cutting. Removing too much of the blade length at one time stresses the grass and weakens your lawn. A longer cutting height results in a stronger, deeper root system and shades the soil retaining moisture and prevents weed seeds from germinating.

Keep your mower blade sharp. This will make mowing easier and reduces tearing the blades of grass, which can promote lawn diseases.

Grass clippings should be left on the lawn when mowing as it is a natural and environmentally friendly practice.



Watering

Most lawns need about 1" to 1-1/2" of water per week. Do not over water your lawn. Too much watering can lead to poor growing conditions and disease problems. Weekly deep watering when there is no rainfall and allowing the lawn to dry out between watering, will force the roots to penetrate deeper in search of moisture. Early morning or evening is the best time to water your lawn so that the leaves can dry slowly and naturally without too much evaporation. In extended hot, dry periods, a lawn may wilt, turn brown, and become dormant. A healthy lawn can survive several weeks in a dormant state.

Aeration

Aeration is one of the most beneficial things you can do for your lawn every year. Aeration will help reduce thatch and compaction and let more air and water into the root zone, developing a deep root system. Spring or fall is the best time to aerate as the soil is moist and it will be easier to remove the cores.

Fertilizing and Lime Treatments

Use a balanced organic, slow-release fertilizer to feed your lawn. These materials break down slowly continuing to feed your lawn over time.

Most types of lawn grass grow best in slightly acidic soil with a pH between 6 and 7. If your soil pH is below 5.5, your lawn won't grow well. Spring is a great time to test your soil, and you can apply lime between fall and early spring.