OSEAN Meeting Minutes

2021-02-16

*Ottawa South Eco Action Network is a group of volunteer environmental activists working in*

*Ottawa South. Our aim is to support people in our area who are taking action in motivating and*

*enabling others to become low waste households, protecting green spaces and wildlife,*

*combating climate change, and encouraging the government to pass more sustainable*

*legislation. We believe in thinking globally and acting locally.*

In attendance: Marianne, Erin, Kari-Anne, David, Heather

Guests: Gillian Walker from Council of Canadians, John D Reid from Hunt Club Community Association, Cynthia N.

**1. Follow up from last meeting**

**Adopt a stream**

Erin received email from Riley: it seems that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has an adopt a stream program under the city stream watch program. Also Hunt club already has done some stream clean ups in 2019, so might be good to reach out to them.

Erin asked to link adopt a stream to adopt a park to give more visibility to the latter.

John mentioned that the adopt a stream is quite old.

volunteering with city stream watch link in chat by Erin

Sue Macarthy is VP of HCCA and her email could be found on the HCCA website. She would welcome people getting involved.

We could put link to it on our website.

**Action item: Aija to get in touch with Sue Macarthy.**

**Canoe Bay**

Dave: Will continue to nag Canoe Bay about composting at the Canoe Bay development. They said at one time that it would be too many chutes but in the most recent communication with them they say they are re-thinking chutes because of COVID.

**Comments on Official Plan**

Can go to engage Ottawa to comment. The deadline was extended to March 12. There will be a meeting on the 23 Feb about OP and Climate change 6:30pm. (<https://www.engage.ottawa.ca/the-new-official-plan>). The one pager documents still miss some important things.

**Green Ottawa website**: No feedback from the email Heather sent to the City's Climate Change group about a Green (all things environmental) web portal.

John mentioned that at the last Virtual Green Drinks meeting, Janice Ashworth said there will be a residential Better Homes Loan program to be announced after the feds have announced their program.

**2. Nuclear waste dump** (Gillian)The Council of Canadians is spearheading the issue of the risk of radiation leakage from a proposed nuclear waste site at Chalk River which would bring in waste from other areas, including possibly US sites and entomb a reactor that's already there. In the current plan, the facility is to be 1 km from the Ottawa River. The reactor is already leaching into a lake there.

The Council of Canadians want people to oppose the plan for the proposed facility to be run by SNC Lavalin and a US consortium; [the objective is ] first to have the City of Ottawa vote to oppose the current plan. The plan is being sent back because of indigenous consultations [or lack of]. Don't want to let up pressure; Montreal and other Quebec municipalities have already spoken out against the plan. It's about the waste, not the broader operation of nuclear. A motion to oppose the plan is going before council - Councillor Kavanaugh agreed to do this and Catherine McKenny seconded the motion, Councillors King, Fleury and Menard are also on board.

Brockington might be talked into this. Gillian asked Osean to contact the councillors in our jurisdiction. People have done the science.

There will be a Town Hall this Thursday at 6:30 pm for people to ask questions and get people on board.

Barry former Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environment will be there and is on board.

River Keeper might speak too.

Heather noted that at today's Environment Committee meeting, Councillor McKenny asked about the Nuclear Waste Mound and what the city is doing. The staff said that they were monitoring tritium. Dave noted that the City has detailed water monitoring records as required by provincial regulations but the most recent is 2013. An example of minimum and maximum values for water collected at Lemieux Island and Britannia water purification plants can be seen at [this link](https://www.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/content/items/450a0ab3f7ef4ab8bcaceefab7b564d8/data). Values are generally below the level of detectability (5 becquerels/L).

Osean members agreed to email councillors Cloutier, Deans and Brockington - from OSEAN asking them to oppose the nuclear waste facility.

**Action item: Aija will write the email. DONE**

**3. Funding opportunity from Ottawa** for $200-3000 (Maximum is 10K); deadline is March 12, 2021.

Is there something that we want to apply for? Some ideas:

Manuel previously suggested - to rescue things being thrown out and prevent them going to the landfill, a person with truck could go round these up.

Pollinator gardens to buy seeds and plant in parks, yards, etc. The Seeds and Soil program will be repeated this year and Hunt Club and Riverside Park will be doing a food/seed/plant program.

Food security

Could be used to pay someone to do research for us about heat pump companies, etc.

Web designer for Ottawa to show what a Green Ottawa website could look like.

Make Just Food better.

Rain gardens

Encourage pollinators - post card idea, pollinator - money for native species of plants, post cards, native seeds, to get the word out.

Adopt a road for a rain garden

John Reid: A larger communication exercise

Erin: Contest - geographically different pockets, congratulate for good job, but are preaching to the converted

John Reid: Information panels, placed strategically around the area, parks

Signs: "Ask me about my pollinator garden"

Heat pumps: Virtual Green Drinks meeting will be talking about HP in March. Could use 3000 + to promote HPs. Answer one big questions that EE has, 0.5 million by 2050. Who is going to do that? how to get skilled labour?

**Action item: Dave will apply to the fund for HP promotion.**

**Action item: Marianne will apply to the fund for the pollinator plants/seeds.**

**4. The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has formed an environmental group called Environment Action** (<https://www.sites.google.com/view/environmentaction/events>) and have reached out to OSEAN to invite us to their monthly webinars and to see how we can collaborate. Alison Hobbs described some of what they do:

The Environment Action group started in Sept 2020. Still in the "What shall we do" phase; educate ourselves before embarking on any project but we also write to papers and media and advocate for the environment; we listen to experts to learn about these issues. Focus on one thing each month. Some of the topics have been:

Italy - regenerative farming and last week Rachel Jones spoke about Ottawa's Solid Waste Master Plan.

44 people at that meeting - core group of 20

Want to ask OSEAN to the talks in future. They are always on Mondays at 1:30 and last about 1 hour.

Next meeting is March 8, 2021 and is about the Zibi development - along the Ottawa River on the old Domtar industrial site.

Video and audio of last one (and was the first one recorded).

Could link to the website from ours.

Rachel might be a great contact for helping with multi-unit dwelling composting. CFUW is interested in helping with editing and design of a pamphlet to give to landlords if we can draft it.

**5. John Reid from the HCCA, environment program** - see the following for what the environment group is doing: <hunt-club.ca/meetings/2021-02-01_5a_environment.pdf>

John notes that they realized that they need a champion willing to take the lead on any activity they embark on.

**6. Doughnut economics**

This is an Ecology Ottawa initiative and presentation. Osean could help promote this.

Dave: see the links. new way to think about economics that includes the environment. Good way to get our name and logo out there, increase our visibility, costs us nothing.

23rd March. Idea is to have one or more of us attend the meeting.

**Action item: Dave will send Osean's logo to Liz. DONE**

**7. Osean survey results**

12 people out of 124 members of our group have filled in the survey. Food security is a particular interest.

Food security, composting in condos, Rachel is quite engaged to get composting in apartments; pamphlet editing and design; Rachel gave the talk about waste in Ottawa.

Other people would like webinars, ask an expert.

Marianne may try to expand the reach of the survey to the three wards. And still trying to get members to offer to help with projects.

John noted that communication is still a bit of an issue for us. Could use the Ottawa funding for own Zoom account, with ability to hold events like the University Women are holding events.

Erin suggested getting students who need volunteer hours to help. Just need to write up what is needed, e.g., about technology, stream watch, spring clean-up, etc. and then send it in an email to Erin and she will send it to the people who have volunteer opportunities at Brookfield.

**7. Out of scope? or can we write letters, share petitions, etc.**

Ford Watch: The proposal for highway 413 in southern Ontario - only shaves 30 seconds off someone's commute but it is being fast tracked despite being originally cancelled a few years ago.

Ford Watch: The Ford government has gutted Conservation Authorities' oversight, is dismantling the Conservation Authorities through ministerial zoning orders, taking over wetlands so they can develop them. The Ford government has now issued more than 45 ministerial zoning orders in the last 2 years where before these were special exemptions with only 1-2 per year.  <https://yourstoprotect.ca>

Osean is local but is also in Ontario. Should we write MP, write Premier?

Federal Bill C-12 Climate Action Accountability Plan - milestone target is 2030 - can't just have first target, have to meet it by 2030. McGuinty not amenable to changing it. Read more here: <https://www.forourkids.ca/bill_C-12_action>

Kari-Anne noted that our pension funds are hugely invested in fossil fuels.

**Action item: Kari-Anne will send information to Marianne about this.**

**Action item: Dave will write something on behalf of the group.**

**8. Action items from last meeting**

- Action Item: Marianne will reach out to Ecology Ottawa to ask that a neighbourhood in OSEAN's jurisdiction could be the focus of a future 15-minute neighbourhood workshop. Marianne is still waiting for feedback from HCCA and RPCA.  
  
- Action item: Erin will create an invitation to people with notable gardens to enter a contest or allow a tour. Erin researched cards for the gardens.

Eco printer is for businesses - can't do small amounts. Perhaps could get funding for that?

Will do more research.

- Action item: All members to ask neighbours if they would like to participate in the competition or to allow tours of their garden. This is expected to be done in the spring.

- Action item: Marianne will attend anti-idling seminar

Marianne attended and had slides from the anti-idling seminar/discussion with Glebe. Glebe is targeting residential users: drivers, schools, etc. Osean could look at industry construction companies and the City - e.g., city employees idle because they have hazard lights on while waiting for snow clearing. How are they enforcing the by-law for their employees?

See something, say something.

Dave: What's best method to approaching them?

Marianne: post cards? turn it off?

Walk your kids to school.

Funds could be used to purchase anti-idling stickers.

Next meeting Tues March 16th 6:30pm