



## Environment & Sustainability Experts Panel Minutes

**January 29, 2021**

**12:30 p.m.**

**Virtual**

**Present:**

Kieran Hanley, MBA - Sustainable Economic Growth, Chair  
Councillor Ian Froude, Council Representative  
Brian Head, Manager - Parks & Open Spaces  
Edmundo Fausto, Sustainability Coordinator  
Joel Finnis, PhD - Climate Science & Resilience  
Dennis Knight, MSc, MCIP - Sustainable Urban Planning & Economic Growth  
Krista Langthorne, BA, SEBT - Resilience & Natural Resources  
Joseph Daraio, PhD, PEng - Sustainable Urban Planning & Resilience  
Michel Wawrzkow, PEng, PGeo - Natural Environment & Resilience  
Shanna Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant

**Regrets:** Pablo Navarro - Socio-cultural & Quality of Life

**Others:** Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved By** Joel Finnis

**Seconded By** Kieran Hanley

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**3.1 Adoption of Minutes - December 11, 2020**

**Moved By** Dennis Knight

**Seconded By** Joel Finnis

That the minutes of the meeting held on December 11, 2020 be adopted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

**4.1 EV Charging Stations Proposal Update**

The City of St. John's submitted a proposal to Newfoundland Power for potential locations to place Electric Vehicle rapid (Level 3 and Level 2) charging stations in Bowring and Bannerman Park parking lots. This proposal is under review by Newfoundland Power.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1 Verbal Presentation on Municipal Policy – Ken O'Brien**

Ken O'Brien, Chief Municipal Planner for the City, presented an overview of Municipal Development Regulations.

During discussion, the following was noted:

- Planning is the process of evaluating resources and needs, then making best use of resources to meet needs for the public good. A plan takes stock of what is needed in a community and how to achieve that.
- In March 2019, Council adopted in principle the Envision St. John's Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. Provincial release of the Draft Plan and Regulations is ongoing.
- It was questioned if the engagement consultations used to produce the plan could be outdated by the time the plan is adopted. In response, Mr. O'Brien advised that when Envision is in place a further look can be taken of the neighborhoods that have significantly changed.
- The Regional Plan for the St. John's Urban Region has not been comprehensively reviewed since 1976 and is overdue for an

evaluation. There have been two unsuccessful efforts made to review and it is unknown if it will be reviewed or updated in future.

- Protection of natural assets was briefly discussed. In the past, wetlands were seen as wasteland instead of as an asset for wildlife habitat, storm water drainage, and flood protection. The City has done an update in the last couple of years of wetland mapping and is bringing in new criteria to protect wetlands.
- A question was raised about the Town of Logy Bay and its new proposed Municipal Plan. There is focus on preservation of natural environment and the rural setting.

The Panel thanked the Chief Municipal Planner for his presentation.

## **5.2 Review of Impacts from Climate Change drafted by the Sustainability Stakeholder Group**

The Panel reviewed information brought forward from the Sustainability Stakeholder Group regarding impacts from Climate Change. This included over 80 impacts that the group brought forward throughout 4 workshops in 2020.

A brief discussion ensued, and members were tasked to review and provide feedback, proposed impact likelihoods, and review proposed consequence definitions. Further information will be sent to members and a reminder will be sent out before the next meeting.

1. **Feedback on Proposed Likelihoods for these Impacts**
2. **Feedback on Consequence Definitions for Adaptation Vulnerability and Risk Assessment**

## **5.3 Discuss Early 2021 Engagements and Share Ideas**

Members discussed early 2021 engagements and recommended delegations to present to the ESEP:

- Natural Asset Management - Roy Brooke of Municipal Natural Asset Initiative (MNAI)
- Energy Transition - Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association (NEIA)
- The City is about to close a contract on energy economy analysis. The contractor may be interested in a meeting for a presentation and discussion with Council and the ESEP.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 26, 2021 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm.

Purpose of next meeting:

1. Natural Asset Management - Roy Brooke of Municipal Natural Asset Initiative (MNAI)
2. Drive Thru Referral

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 pm.

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CHAIRPERSON, KIERAN HANLEY