

Municipality Of Chatham-Kent

Community Development

Planning Services

Information Report

To: Members of the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole

From: Gabriel Clarke, MES, BA
Manager, Growth & Sustainability, Planning Services

Date: November 19, 2021

Subject: Publicly Accessible Information on the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole

This report is for the information of the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole.

Background

On September 27, 2021, Council approved the Terms of Reference for the creation of the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole (NHCOTW).

On November 1, 2021, the Natural Heritage Committee of the Whole held its inaugural meeting and approved a motion endorsing a meeting framework and commitment to civic engagement as outlined the [Meeting Framework and Public Participation Report](#).

The approach to civic engagement outlined in the Report follows the Inform→Consult→Involve spectrum (shown in Table 1 below) modelled after the industry standard International Association of Public Participation (IAP2). The approach adheres to the philosophy that the degree of engagement should be proportional to the impact to the public and that accessible and timely information forms a precondition for successful public engagement processes.

Table 1: Spectrum of Civic Engagement for the NHCOTW

	Inform	Consult	Involve
Public Participation Goal	Providing balanced and objective information to assist in forming an understanding of the problems, alternatives, opportunities, or solutions.	Obtaining feedback on analysis, alternatives, or other decisions	Involving the public throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

Comments

In order to fulfill the “inform” commitment discussed above, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent will provide information on Natural Heritage and the NHCOTW through the following two websites:

- Let’s Talk Chatham-Kent
- Chatham-Kent Website

The role of each website is discussed in more detail below.

Let’s Talk Chatham-Kent

The Let’s Talk Chatham-Kent platform is utilized to provide information to the public about ongoing projects or studies within the Municipality, while also seeking the public’s feedback when necessary.

A dedicated site for [Natural Heritage Planning](#) can be accessed through the platform, which will be updated regularly as needed. This page contains general information regarding recent developments on natural heritage matters, including the temporary woodlot preservation by-law, the community engagement process held earlier this year and the timeline of Council’s direction to form the NHCOTW. This site will be updated to include any future engagement opportunities and any further direction from Council on the NHCOTW.

The information regarding the meeting schedule and how to access the meeting agenda is also provided, though the primary purpose of this site is to communicate general information on natural heritage and the NHCOTW. Regular updates of the meeting schedule, agendas and minutes will be directed to the Chatham-Kent website as described below.

Chatham-Kent Website

The Chatham-Kent website is maintained regularly to provide Council and Committees of Council schedules, upcoming agenda’s, and the minutes of the meetings. The [Committees of Council](#) pages contain dedicated pages of all the relevant Committees formed by Council, including the NHCOTW.

A dedicated page for the [NHCOTW](#) has been set-up to provide information such as:

- Purpose of the NHCOTW
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Representatives of Council, including Committee Chair and Vice-chair
- Role of the Committee
- Committee meeting schedule
- Committee meeting agendas
- Meeting minutes

The purpose of this page is to provide information on the proceedings of the NHCOTW.

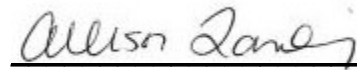
Consultation

There was no consultation required for the preparation of this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from this Report.

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Attachment: None

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