

**St. Catharines Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Committee Room 1)**  
**Time: 4:30PM – 6:30PM**

**Attendance:** Mary M (Chair), Dan R, Vanessa A, Bernie S, Mat S, Phil B, Katrina K

**Regrets:** Laura I, Greg R,

**1. Adoption of the minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**Moved by:** Mat

**Approved by:** all

**2. Adoptions of previous meeting's minutes:**

No Corrections

**Moved by:** Vanessa

**Approved by:** all

**3. Discussion on Front Yard Garden and Follow up from last minutes Action Items**

- *Reminder: Deadline July 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Two Submissions for the Trillium Award Nominations:**

***Green Leadership Award***

- Vanessa would like to contact a Merriton Household and learn more about their gardens. This could be a great submission for a mixed-edible garden for Trillium (Mat has also visited and tweeted about it).
- Bernie recommends also putting a submission for 23 Lake Street (Corner of Lake and Queen Street).

**Action Items:**

- Still would like to see City Hall act as a leader example for mixed-gardens for the summer of 2015. This is a great property. There should not be a real need for any new gardens, only a modification of the existing gardens to incorporate vegetable options.

**Motion to:** Send delegation of Vanessa & Dan in support of the development of a front yard garden at City Hall for Spring/Summer 2015 including details of the potential of a "Grow A Row"

- Next Council Meeting: during the month of August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Moved by:** Phil

**Approved by:** All

**Deferred Items:**

- Sustainability Committee Award Title Next Meeting
- Presenters for the October event at the Next Meeting

Staff to investigate the feasibility of purchasing tickets to the Trillium Award Gala and who will represent the committee on behalf

Moved by: Mat

Seconded by: Vanessa

Approved by: All

**Policy Development Update**

- Sub-Committee has had their first meeting with Kristen Sullivan
- There is enough information available to not have to “reinvent the wheel”
- Next meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Will bring it to the community/groups/individuals, etc. for feedback/public input (Committee is the primary stakeholder)
- Kristen Sullivan will be the City staff who will be responsible for the writing of the final policy draft
- In-line with the timelines of having a policy developed by the end of 2014

**Update from NSI**

Katrina to send the Individual Draft Report to Sustainability Committee

**Motion:** The Committee would like to put forward a motion supporting the continuation/renewal of the City of St. Catharines involvement of NSI as a Carbon Project Partner.

**Moved by:** Mat

**Approved by:** all

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**Discussion on Front Yard Garden Toolkit**

- Purpose is to showcase and profile Front Yard Gardens
- Mat provided some input on his experience building and growing a front yard garden this year:
  - Gets a number of questions from pedestrians passing by, positive sentiments
  - Neighbours have rabbits, and there has been some rabbit damage to plants – will consider putting up chicken wire to keep nibbling pests away

- Throughout the process Mat has taken pics and tweeted them, check them out @MatSiscoe
- Costs: Decided on raised planters for the garden. Considered cedar, but to keep the costs down, decided on using pressure treated with a poly barrier, which was far less expensive than cedar. Total cost for wood \$200-250. Soil costs were \$150-200 including delivery.
- The garden receives a fair bit of shade from two street trees, but everything seems to be thriving.
- We are looking to form a sub-committee, but will defer forming the sub-committee until next meeting as a number of members were absent tonight.
- Looking for communications support – is there a way for the City to ask for contributions from the community via facebook and twitter?

### **New Business**

- Local Food Week was a no go in terms of awareness raising – there is nothing yet set up via provincial government to point people towards. “What are we promoting?”
- Next year may look to raise awareness via Niagara Veg Fest, as this year NVF was held during Local Food Week.
- Also looking to promote local food via the Farmer’s Market next year.
- Is there a possibility that the Civic Square will be open by this time next year?
  - ***ACTION ITEM MARCO***
    - Can Marco find out if the Civic Square a go for next year, and if so, can the opening be co-ordinated with Veg Fest to help keep it downtown and accommodate the growing popularity of the festival? We understand that it may be a tentative for next year with varying regional projects on the go in the area.
    - Karrie Porter is contact for Veg Fest.

**Motion:** Adjourn

**Moved by:** Vanessa

**Approved by:** all

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