
MINUTES

Green Advisory Committee

Monday, May 11, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

Civic Square: 60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4

Meeting Room C

HYBRID/ZOOM: <https://welland-ca.zoom.us/j/82976818950>

Present: Councillor David McLeod (**CM**), Therese DeAgazio (**TD**), Carolyn Fast (Chair) (**CF**), Tom Liszt (**TL**), Sydney Tomaino (**ST**)

Absent with Regrets: Grant Munday, Director of Planning and Development Services (**GM**), Rob Repovs (**RR**), Nicolas Aiello, Planning Supervisor – Policy (**NA**)

Also Present: Paige Fournier, Planning Technician II (Staff Liaison) (**PF**)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 3:33 P.M.

A. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“Welland is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk (Hat-i-wen-DA-ronk), the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-den-no-SHOW-nee), and the Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-ihNAH-bey), including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Welland today. Welland stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.”

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mover: (TD)

That the agenda for May 11, 2026, meeting of Green Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Conflict of Interest – “Having reviewed the agenda, does any committee member have a need to disclose a direct or indirect pecuniary interest with respect to today’s agenda.”

THERE WERE NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Mover: (TD)

That the minutes of April 13, 2026, meeting of the Green Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS - None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Updates From Tree Giveaway and Community Cleanup

Committee members who attended both weekends provided updates.

(PF) The first event on Monday saw a strong attendance, supported by favorable weather conditions.

(ST) Requested a summary of how the second weekend went with respect to the remainder of the trees that were left over and what was done with them.

(TL) Stated that the second weekend experienced colder weather but maintained steady participation. The distribution process was efficient and well organized.

(TL) Stated that at the end of the second event, approximately 50 individuals lined up to receive the remaining trees. All available trees were distributed, with some individuals receiving more than one after the initial demand was satisfied.

(ST) Stated that there were some people at the market saying that they had not heard of the giveaway and suggested perhaps a broader marketing strategy for next time.

(CM) Approximately 55 surplus trees from the first weekend were distributed to residents who had not pre-registered.

(TL) Stated there were instances of residents returning to claim previously reserved trees, though all were accommodated.

(TD) Stated some residents reported missing the opportunity to register due to the registration window closing quickly. Suggested opening registration earlier and keep it open longer.

(ST) Stated certain tree species (notably black gum) were less popular and resulted in higher surplus quantities. Residents showed a clear preference for aesthetically appealing tree varieties (e.g., flowering trees).

(ST) Suggested the committee re-evaluate tree species selection to align with resident preferences.

(CF) Stated that feedback indicated some initial resistance from the public; however, engagement improved following the targeted outreach. Increased

participation occurred after messaging reframed the event and encouraged community involvement. A separate group conducted an independent cleanup concurrently, further contributing to the overall impact.

(PF) Stated she will verify with Dave Steven how many garbage bags were collected to compare results with previous years.

(CF) Asked the committee to explore implementing a second cleanup event in summer to encourage ongoing participation.

(CM) Stated that we could initiate outreach earlier to neighbourhood associations and community groups.

(TD) Suggested involving Councillors as they might be able to inform their constituents (groups) of the event.

(PF) To follow up with (NA) with what it would take internally to organize another community clean up in the summer.

5.2 Sign Ideas for Parks

(PF) A proposal was presented by Dave Steven to install vinyl stickers on existing garbage receptacles as an alternative to standalone signage with emphasis on creating short, catchy, and engaging messages to encourage proper waste disposal. Examples given were “Feed me I’m hungry”, or “Put trash in its place”.

(PF) Asked committee members to submit slogan ideas to her as soon as possible.

5.3 Website Links and Updates

(PF) Confirmed that she has obtained access to manage website updates to the website. Stated she will have the ability to update the Green Committee webpage and links. Requested the committee members review current links and provide any additions to her.

(PF) Stated that current low website traffic reduces visibility of engagement tools. Stated she plans to have a direct link added from the main Welland website to Engage Welland. Communications confirmed this will be completed (following the upcoming website overhaul).

(ST) Suggested to include committee member profiles/photos to improve transparency and engagement.

(TD) Raised concern that password requirements on Engage Welland may deter participation.

6. MOTIONS – None

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 (TD) Inquired if anyone had the chance to read the correspondence she sent to the committee members regarding the tree canopy. She stated that it was written in clear accessible language with a well-structured approach.

(TD) Stated the importance of prioritizing native species and the avoidance of invasive species (e.g., Bradford pear).

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Niagara Region / Miller Contact for Garbage Overflow

The discussion focused on litter caused by recycling materials blowing out of open bins.

(CM) Stated his conclusion after some independent research was the responsibility generally lies with residents unless spillage occurs during collection.

(CM) Stated after doing some research that Home Depot sells a recycling bin lid which clicks on top of your blue bin that retails at \$6.98 to prevent materials from blowing away.

(CM) Suggested potential for a cost-sharing program between residents and the city. Opportunity to target high-risk areas (e.g., high wind corridors, major streets). Perhaps give them away to those homeowners. Suggested he will purchase one and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

(TD) Concerned that this might create more work for staff to have to remove the lid at each property to dump it in the trucks.

(CM) Stated that lids are already suggested on the Niagara Regional web site. Suggested that the committee members test out the lids and report back on functionality and compatibility. If successful, consider formal recommendation to Council including subsidy or distribution program.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: (TD)

That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 pm.

CARRIED