OSEAN Meeting Minutes

2021-03-16

*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.*

Attendees: Heather, Aija, Erin, Dave, Marianne

Guests: Heather MacKimmon, Heather Jeffery, Austin Chamney, Mir Tent

1. Follow-up from last meeting (see also action items at the bottom)

a. Adopt a Stream Program. Aija: HCCA adopted Hunt Club Creek. Rideau River Conservation Area is not active due to COVID. Sue McCarthy may organize something. March 22 is world Water Day - good time to reach out to the CA's about local creeks.

**Action Item: Erin will run a stream clean up class as outdoor ed.**

E.g., Sawmill Creek near Brookfield HS.

**Action item: Heather to send link on water quality of creeks in Ottawa to Ajia.**

b. Spring Cleaning Up the Capital early bird sign up ended March 15th https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/environment/community-environmental-and-beautification-programs/cleaning-capital-program#spring-cleaning-capital-important-dates-2021

**Action item: Erin will sign up her Gym Class.**

c. Green Website: Nothing to report from Riley. They don't want our feedback. Waiting for consultation. Erin will ask Riley again when setting up the table for Earth Day.

Sign up for the City's Climate Change newsletter here: <https://app06.ottawa.ca/esubscriptions/signup-form-en.html>

d. Ottawa Official Plan - The deadline for Engage website has passed but still able to send emails.  Council will review the 2nd draft of the OP in September 2021.

Ecology Ottawa, Green Space Alliance and other groups presented their People's Official Plan to the City March 12, 2021. [Editor's note: This was sent out to CAFES email list. Hopefully they will eventually post it to their website: https://www.ottawaclimatesolutions.net]

Marianne worked with Ecology Ottawa and FOK to come up with this “cheat sheet”. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TwHzw8A0FI75kG-ehwT-q3VGz0dKPPYTrdNV3bUCzPU/edit>

* + 1. A request was made to the City to extend consultation by the Federation of Community Associations of Ottawa (http://fca-fac.ca/) and Allex Cullen but the Mayor and councillors El-Chantiry and Harder, said there had been enough consultation (You can read their response letter [here:](https://avca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Letter-from-Mayor-Watson-Councillor-Harder-and-Councillor-El-Chantiry-to-the-Federation-of-Citizens-Association-of-Ottawa.pdf)
    2. New Official Plan public Q&A March 24th from 6-8pm. Register here:https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/new-official-plan-qa-seance-de-questions-sur-le-nouveau-plan-tickets-145311393289

e. Nuclear waste dump at Chalk River near Ottawa river.  This will be discussed at the Environment Committee on March 30th. Nuclear Council will send a delegation to this meeting. Nuclear Waste Watch is organising round tables. Very knowledgeable people. NRCan is organizing their own round tables during the middle of the day and is on MS Teams so not everyone could attend. Huge amount of flack. NRCan postponed round table. Anyone who wants to write a letter to City Council can do and we would send a letter on behalf of OSEAN.

**Action item: Dave may write a letter.**

f. Funding opportunity from Ottawa. Deadline is March 31. - Marianne still hoping to submit a pollinator education project, like a zoom account for this. <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/budget-finance-and-corporate-planning/funding/environmental-funding/community-environmental-projects-grant-program-cepgp#program-description-and-application> Dave was also thinking of an application for heat pumps but City is probably more interested in the pollinator education project.

Here is the [first draft](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wZ-U3yka_ygPBNSRI4CdbPhQNn26PNsikW_650jQYBM/edit) if anyone wants to comment.

g. “Ford Watch” See Standing Items below.

h. Doughnut Economics presentation by Ecology Ottawa on March 31 from 12-1:30 pm. OSEAN is a co-sponsor! Erin will attend from Osean. Heather M will also go. <https://2020-ecologyottawa.nationbuilder.com/doughnut-economics>

1. 2. **New contacts**
2. Heather J: founder of Re4m [ReForm] discussed her Alta Vista business that focusses on repurposing items to divert material from landfill. [https://www.Re4m.ça](https://www.re4m.ca/)

It makes things for other businesses out of recycled material e.g., EcoGala display, event spaces displays and fixtures. Works with local businesses like Museum of Nature (deconstruct displays), Bloomfields, etc. They have a warehouse, full woodshop, sewing room, 2 design offices. Are growing. Hoping to reach more into networking, developing more resources, interested to learn more about OSEAN. Looking for partnerships like plastics manufacturers for plastic off cuts. E.g., hardware from retractable banners like those used in government at conferences. Business active 6 years, incorporated end of 2019. 136 Billings Ave.

connect@re4m.ca

**Action Item : Heather to add link re4m link to Links webpage.**

1. 3. **Earth Day at the HCCC** Saturday April 24. Riley is sponsoring E-waste collection in collaboration with Earth Day. Riley has a flyer he will be sending out.
2. [Post meeting note: Looks like there won't be any tables.]

Kat said it's important to have the 5 W's about OSEAN and what the group will be doing.

Still haven't heard about getting a table.

If we have a table (without a volunteer) Erin will set up the table and bring Betty the Seagull, Osean handouts plus pollinator contest info.

1. April 24th is the Ottawa anniversary of Climate Emergency Declaration. Erin may put up a sign at the Earth Day table to remind people of this. Could have a list of links to other organizations - Erin will print out if someone else will create a Google Doc. Heather MacKinnon offered to start this draft, Marianne offered to support (may be good to just have as a google document).

4. **Pollinator garden contest** A fun way to showcase what local people are doing and to help others learn about pollinators and promote mentorship.

Erin has designed door hangers instead of cards that could get lost/damaged. They read: Osean has chosen you, contest information, email us a picture of your garden to post on our platforms. Contest runs till end of August, email entries to: ..., see rules on back..

Gardeners can also put a sign in their yard "Ask me about my garden".

Helps draw attention to pollinator gardens and motivate others to participate.

There will be prizes for winners.

**Action item: Erin will print 250 door hangers and will put them on the Earth Day table with a poster about OSEAN**. People walking by can grab a pack and give door hangers away on their walks. [Post meeting note: We will also ask people on Forces of Nature Facebook Group if they will act as pickup locations and email community associations.]

Mir Tent: Likes the pollinator garden idea. Mir's daughter may come to the next Osean meeting to talk about the Butterfly Rangers program.

Mir may give us a list of native seed sources: Greta's garden, etc. that we could add to Osean's website.

[Editor's note: Link to Suzuki Butterfly Rangers is available on the Osean website on the New and Events page (April 2020 post).]

5. **Bicycling with Austin Chamney**: Austin is helping reticent cyclists get into bicycling. He will provide a bike for a month for free and instructions on how to use it. Hoping to start in April. Has several bikes now. Looking for help to promote this. Works through Buy Nothing. Here is the [google form](https://forms.gle/cau84pupNuu2PCd97).

**Action item: Austin will send information to Osean to showcase his initiative on FB. DONE**

**Action item: Austin may set up bike tune-ups at the HCCC Earth Day event. He will contact Riley.**

1. 6. **Front yard garden Bylaw Discussions** - Improving front yard garden / naturalized gardens

- residents are allowed to plant vegetables and naturalized gardens.

- By-law may still come. You could get fined for having a structure.

Marianne was talking to a by-law officer. Complaints are triaged at 311, goes to any available by-law officer; are shift workers.

Need communication. It might be useful to draft a visual aid to help residents navigate what is and isn’t allowed. If drafted in collaboration with bylaw it could act as an education tool for bylaw officers too! also it's an equity issue for whom English is not their first language.

[as an aside: Riley is trying to do a pilot of chicken coups.]

Mir had a by-law officer come when some neighbours complained, no fines. Had to move some gardens that were in a raised structure.

1. 7. World Changing Kids by Lindsay Barr (Alta Vista Youth): get recycled content toilet paper in Costco Stores. - environmental issues, 136 signatures on their petition. Will need more signatures. <https://www.change.org/p/costco-wholesale-costco-sell-environmentally-friendly-toilet-paper-in-your-stores?recruiter=1184808050&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition>

Standing items

1. **Council Watch** - CW is an Ecology Ottawa program. The team of about 10 attends Environment, Transit, Transportation, and Planning Committees and City Council meetings. Three articles have been published - 1st was on safe roads in Ottawa, 2nd was about plastic recycling in parks and the 3rd on funding Energy Evolution. **Action item: Heather to send link to articles to Marianne.**
2. **Ford Watch**: Dave to send a letter on behalf of OSEAN. (The letter has been sent to Oseanites for comments.) Bill 257 is at 2nd reading; decision is expected by end of month. Schedule 3 in Bill 257 retroactively allows Ford Government to disallow public consultation on Municipal Zoning Orders. <https://environmentaldefence.ca/newmode/stop-schedule-3/>

Next meeting April 13, 2021 6:30pm