AGENDA

Wednesday, October 25, 2023
Secord Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 50 Dickson Street
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Called to Order
Disclosure of Interest
Presentations
Delegations

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

Recommendation:
THAT the decisions contained in the June 28, 2023 minutes be considered for errors or omissions and adopted.

Reports

Subcommittee Reports

1. City Green Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Recommendations:
THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) receives the meeting notes from the September 11 and October 2, 2023 meetings of City Green;
AND FURTHER THAT they be appended to the October 25, 2023 CEAC minutes for distribution.

Please Note: If you cannot attend the meeting or if you have added agenda items please contact Karin Stieg-Drobig:
519-621-0740 Ext. 4816 or by e-mail: stiegdrobigk@cambridge.ca
2. Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Recommendation:

THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) forward Report No. CEAC-02-23 to the Project Engineer as its comments on the Project File Report for the Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

Correspondence


Information Items

4. Public drinking fountain/bottle filler pilot project in Market Square

Other Business

Next Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Secord Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 50 Dickson Street

Close of Meeting

THAT the CEAC meeting does now adjourn at __ p.m.

Distribution:

Alison Fraser, Cynthia Brown, Danielle Lindamood, Derrick Roy, Jonas Duarte, Linda Foster, Lisa Grbinicek, Nelson Cecilia, Nichole Bonner, Ryleigh McDermid and Councillor Hamilton
MINUTES
Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee
No. 2-23
Wednesday, June 28, 2023
City Hall, Secord Room, 2nd Floor

Committee Members in Attendance: Cindy Brown, Danielle Lindamood, Derek Roy, Lisa Grbinicek, Nelson Cecilia, Nichole Bonner and Councillor Hamilton

Regrets: Jonas Duarte and Alison Fraser

Staff in Attendance: Kathy Padgett, Senior Planner – Environment, Karin Stieg-Drobig, Recording Secretary and Paul Willms, Sustainability Planner

Meeting Called to Order

The regular meeting of the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) was held in the Secord Room, 50 Dickson Street, Cambridge, Ontario. Lisa Grbinicek welcomed everyone to the meeting and the meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Disclosure of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Presentations

Paul Willms, Sustainability Planner presented on the Parks Master Plan (Plan). He gave a comprehensive presentation explaining that the 30-year plan, with shorter 10-year term increments will include public engagement at various stages. He noted that public and stakeholder input will be gathered through surveys, presentations to various advisory committees and public meetings. This information will then be compiled in a report to Council to seek direction for moving forward with the Plan.

The number and types of parks was explained in detail, including community and neighbourhood parks, urban squares and urban greens, trailheads and outdoor recreation facilities that are part of the approximately 500 hectares of public space within Cambridge. It was noted that the expected 50% increase in population within the City of Cambridge will require 64 hectares of developable parkland to meet the current service standard and may also include privately-owned public spaces (POPS) and Strata Parks. These parks on top of low-rise parking and buildings are relatively new, but it is expected that the city will see more of these through intensification. Lastly, levels and types of services were also explained to the Committee.

Consultation opportunities were discussed and it was also determined that a subcommittee would be struck when a draft Plan is available for review. The group provided some initial feedback.
regarding natural buffers, trails, interpretive signage, enhancement opportunities, climate adaptation and acquisition policies for natural areas. Paul will return to the Committee once more information has been gathered and a draft Plan has been prepared for public consultation. The Committee was encouraged to complete the Engage survey as private citizens and to forward any initial comments for consideration to Kathy Padgett who will compile the comments and forward to Paul.

Delegations

NIL

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by: Nelson Cecilia
Seconded by: Cindy Brown

THAT the decisions contained in the May 24, 2023 minutes be adopted as written.

CARRIED

Reports

Subcommittee Reports

1. Blair-Preston Trail and Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Moved by: Derek Roy
Seconded by: Nelson Cecilia

THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) forward Report No. CEAC-01-23 to the Project Engineer as its comments on the Blair-Preston Trail and Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

CARRIED

2. Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Moved by: Danielle Lindamood
Seconded by: Cindy Brown

THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) forward Report No. CEAC-01-22 to the Project Managers as its comments on the Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

CARRIED

Moved by: Derek Roy
Seconded by: Nichole Bonner

THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) appoints the following members to the Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Subcommittee:
CARRIED

Correspondence

3. The correspondence from Mir Talpur, Senior Environmental Planner, WSP in response to CEAC report CEAC-01-22 entitled “Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment” was shared for information.

Information Items

4. Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Assessment

The Notice of Study Completion was shared for information.

5. Cambridge Community Clean Up on September 16, 2023

The Cambridge Community Clean Up was shared for information.

Other Business

Emerald Ash Borer

In response to a question at the previous CEAC meeting about the status of the Emerald Ash Borer in Cambridge, Forestry staff advised that the hazard of Emerald Ash Borer doesn’t present itself as much now that so many ash trees have been removed by the City. So, while the insect is still present, there are fewer ash trees in the City to be impacted.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of CEAC is scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Secord Room.

Close of Meeting

Moved by: Danielle Lindamood
Seconded by: Nelson Cecilia

THAT the CEAC meeting does now adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Lisa Grbinicek
Vice-Chairperson

Karin Stieg-Drobig
Recording Secretary
Attendance: Paul Willms, Sandy Forsyth, Linda Simpson, Moira Gilderson, Laura Pritchard, Danielle Glendenning

Regrets: Kelly Pritchard, Nichole Daniels

Roundtable welcome to any Guests or New Members

1. Review of Meeting Notes and Action Items
   - some project background information and Action Items are carried forward in the Meeting Notes for a base of information and current status of the particular project.

2. City Green in the Community
   - Cambridge Bee City Team
     - City Green members are welcome to attend meetings – Cambridge Bee City meets 3 times a year (March, June, November) 10-11:30 am.
     - next meeting is November 9, 2023, 10-11:30 am. [Click here to join the meeting]
     - Annual Report was submitted in June (available upon request)
     - Idea Exchange has seed libraries at each branch with native seeds and have seen an exponential increase in interest especially from new Canadians and/or new residents to the area
     - Pollinator event will be hosted by rare Charitable Reserve in 2024 looking at April or similar “early season” date. Event will likely occur every 2 years going forward.
   - Jane’s Walk / Mill Creek self-guided online tour (this is the link to the Google doc)
     - At the February 2023 meeting, Ben Watson and Lynda Oleson provided a presentation on creating an “augmented reality” app version of the Mill Creek tour whereby they would develop an “app”, load it on the app stores, etc. The package would then be handed off to the City for administration and hosting and the City would own the data / app (without a “subscription” or ongoing cost from a vendor). The total cost would be approximately $60,000. This is not in City budgets at this time and beyond City Green’s (modest) annual budget. Funding would need to be accessed from other sources such as the Regional Tourism association, Community Foundation(s), corporate sponsorship, or other grants.
     - Subcommittee: Kelly, Linda, Diane, Danielle, Moira
     - After a good brainstorm on possible funding sources, the group felt the next steps would be:
1. Make inquiries re: the potential funding sources identified in the brainstorm but hold off on speaking to any corporations until a presentation and “pitch package” has been completed (and also the initial version/project content of the tour is completed)

2. Finish the project content (the stops and complete the “low-tech version” in the same format as the Historic Downtown Walking tour (i.e. some text and a photo of each “stop”). This link above shows that format.

3. Once the project content is done and in the Historic Downtown Walking tour format, create a slide deck (and any other materials such as a handout) for corporate sponsorship presentations.

   o Fundraising Ideas (continued) – 50th Anniversary grants; Gore Mutual, Galt Lions Club, Regional Tourism, Community Benefits funding from a major development along the creek, etc.

**ACTIONS:**

- LS will assemble the subcommittee to discuss next steps
- complete text and find photos for each destination; subcommittee and CG members can help by going to the Google Doc and
  - working on the text for existing 10-15 stops
  - working on new stops (text and photos) especially in the section of creek that goes underground / piped from Main St. to mouth (ask PW for the route map pdf file as he had the modern underground stormwater pipe/piped creek route overlaid on the 1851 map so that mill ponds locations could be visible....points of interest, such as the 19th century mill ponds, could be written up and perhaps an archival photo found?)
  - adding an “indigenous” stop(?) or info to applicable stops
  - seek great photos in Archives online databases and perhaps some new photos taken by members at stops. Find the oblique map of Galt downtown core.

- to get help from Archives staff specific questions or information should be known in advance and the form must be completed and submitted in advance of a visit to Archives / meeting with Dan Schmalz
• **TREEmendous Cambridge**

  - The tool (at the link above) can be used on someone’s phone to look up information on ~500 trees on public properties with a diameter above 1 metre as well as ~50,000+ street trees. They can also view their tree canopy coverage (in %) for their school, property, etc. The information presented includes the species, diameter, Google Street View and address of the tree, and a statement about what the tree contributes in terms of “ecosystem services” (for example, one of the five statements is “Trees combat climate change by absorbing CO2, storing the carbon and releasing oxygen into the air. This reduces our overall carbon footprint. According to the National Tree Benefit Calculator, you would need 10 trees the size of this one to offset the carbon footprint of one car. That's TREEmendous!”

  - To promote the app, the City Green group, in partnership with Reep Green Solutions’ Aaron Boonstra and Patrick Gilbride, planned a series of three “walk events”:
    - The first event took place Wednesday, June 21st (Hespeler) 7-8:30pm – City Green demonstrator: Linda Simpson, Nicole, Moira. 23 people in attendance and it was very well received and Aaron was very informative as the tour leader. It was difficult to demonstrate the TREEmendous tool so it wasn’t done.
    - Thursday September 21st (Galt) 6:30-8pm – City Green demonstrator: Linda Simpson. As of Sept. 7th, 9 registered at the Eventbrite link
    - Saturday October 14th 2-3:30 pm (Preston) – City Green demonstrator: Linda and Diane. As of Sept. 7th, 8 registered at the Eventbrite link

  - Tour Routes, and the lists of TREEmendous trees that are along the routes, in Hespeler, Preston and Galt are available upon request from PW

  - The “Landing page” (which is in final format and has been edited) will need to wait until Forestry Services completes their City website page development and aspects of it can then be added (some aspects may already be on the website); a link to TREEmendous Cambridge is on the Environment and Sustainability page, under “Online Natural Heritage and Tree Mapping Tools”. **Perhaps the landing page can be loaded on the CG FB site(?)**

  - Aaron Boonstra will focus his talk on tree id, mature trees, care, pros and cons of native species versus non-natives and how do we maintain the canopy.

  - **City Green members duties at each of the walks and demonstrating the TREEmendous Cambridge tool:**
    1. Introduce Aaron and any City Green members at the beginning
    2. At an appropriate time, such as when you are standing by a TREEmendous tree, CG members to demonstrate the app by asking folks to visit the link and follow along and mentioning:
      - What you see on the initial screen:
        - The address search bar and various buttons
        - Neighbourhoods in the city and their canopy percentage
- Red dots with “T’s” representing the 500+ TREEmendous trees on city-owned properties that are 1m in diameter or larger
- Street trees (approx. 55,000) and park trees represented by green dots
- The “Locate Me” button – this is useful if someone is standing next to a tree that they wish to identify
- Tree canopy coverage / percentage can be seen by neighbourhood and individual properties
- One can search by address

3. Cambridge Community Clean Up

   o Saturday, September 17, 2023, 9:30-12 noon
   o Mobile signs installed September 1-17 with promotion message and Sept.18-22 with thank-you
   o Promotions launched August 25, 2023
   o Smaller, lighter tote(s) / supplies for ~100 to each location
   o Last minute issues with Old Post Office, Queen’s Square and Hespeler locations but we can adapt
   o Volunteers for Idea Exchange locations Saturday September 16, 9:30-12 noon:

City Green members staffing Idea Exchange locations:

   • Queen’s Square: Linda, Danielle
   • Clemens Mill: Heather Dearlove (and Paul Willms will be stationed there)
   • Hespeler: Sandy and family
   • Old Post Office: this location will not be available due to the Doors Open event and our poster was changed to note this
   • Preston: Moira, Diane

   PICKUP SUPPLIES ON Friday, September 15th:

   12 pm noon - Diane
   1 pm - Sandy
   2 pm - Danielle

Paul to deliver supplies to Clemens Mill and set up the booth so that it is ready for Heather
At the end, after 12 noon, return to Dickson Arena to drop off your supplies

4. Other Business

   o Nichole Daniels, CEAC Member, Vice-Chair

   o Linda will post an ad on the City Green website for additional members to try to get City Green up to 15 people (7 additional members) and Paul will create a poster for the Clean Up event for the booth with the info. The idea is to invite people to the October 2, 2023 IN PERSON meeting 6:30-8pm at Dickson Arena and note that we will have a brainstorm so they could bring their ideas as well

   o April 20, 2024 will be the date for the next Cambridge Community Clean Up
5. Information Items
   o 523 members April 3, 2023 and 575 members as of today September 11, 2023
   o updated Cambridge City Green Calendar (new additions are highlighted)

6. NEXT MEETING: October 2, 2023 6:30-8pm IN PERSON MEETING and have a brainstorm session (hopefully with some new City Green members in attendance as well)

   CAMBRIDGE CITY GREEN CALENDAR
   (past events are deleted and additions since the last version are highlighted)

   o City Green Meetings: (usually the first Monday of the month 6:30pm – 8 pm; if there is a statutory holiday we meet the next Monday; we do not meet in July/August).

   o Cambridge Community Clean Up
     - September 16, 2023 9:30-12 noon (but also “all month long” for Organize-Your-Own groups)

   o TREETemendous Cambridge walking event and launch of City Green’s “app”
     o Thursday September 21st (Galt) 6:30-8pm. Park/meet at the Lincoln Park parking lot, 14 Vimy St.
     o Saturday October 14th (Preston) 2-3:30 pm. Park/meet at the dead end of Dover St. (may have to park along the street as parking is limited at the pumphouse location at 932 Dover St. S.)
CAMBRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEAC)

Cambridge CITY GREEN

Meeting Notes

Monday October 2, 2023  6:30 – 8 p.m.
Microsoft Teams meeting

Attendance: Nichole Daniels, Diane Day, Heather Parekh, Paul Willms, Sandy Forsyth

Regrets: Linda Simpson, Moira Gilderson, Danielle Glendinning

Roundtable welcome to any Guests or New Members
Heather Parekh introduced herself and heard about City Green at the TREEmendous Cambridge walk event.

ACTIONS:

- Cambridge City Green will meet IN PERSON at the next meeting, November 6th, 6:30pm-8pm at the boardroom at Dickson Arena, 30 Park Hill Rd. W. When you arrive, DO NOT go to the doors with the sign “Arena Entrance” off the parking lot but instead go around the “front” of the building to those doors. If you are late, you will need to call Paul Willms at 226-988-2422 as the doors will be locked at 6:30pm

- Linda will post an ad on the City Green website for additional members to try to get City Green up to 15 people (7 additional members). The idea is to invite people to the November IN PERSON meeting 6:30-8pm at Dickson Arena and note that we will have a brainstorm so they could bring their ideas as well.

1. Review of Meeting Notes and Action Items
   - some project background information and Action Items are carried forward in the Meeting Notes for a base of information, what has been accomplished to date, and the current status of the particular project.

2. City Green in the Community
   
   Cambridge Bee City Team
   
   - City Green members are welcome to attend meetings – Cambridge Bee City meets 3 times a year (March, June, November) 10-11:30 am.
   - next meeting is November 9, 2023, 10-11:30 am.  Click here to join the meeting
   - Annual Report was submitted in June (available upon request)
   - Idea Exchange has seed libraries at each branch with native seeds and have seen an exponential increase in interest especially from new Canadians and/or new residents to the area
   - Pollinator event will be hosted by rare Charitable Reserve in 2024 looking at April or similar “early season” date. Event will likely occur every 2 years going forward.

- Jane’s Walk / Mill Creek self-guided online tour (this is the link to the Google doc)
   - At the February 2023 meeting, Ben Watson and Lynda Oleson provided a presentation on creating an “augmented reality” app version of the Mill Creek tour whereby they would develop an “app”, load it on the app stores, etc. The
package would then be handed off to the City for administration and hosting and the City would own the data / app (without a “subscription” or ongoing cost from a vendor). The total cost would be approximately $60,000. This is not in City budgets at this time and beyond City Green’s (modest) annual budget. Funding would need to be accessed from other sources such as the Regional Tourism association, Community Foundation(s), corporate sponsorship, or other grants.

- Subcommittee: Kelly, Linda, Diane, Danielle, Moira

- After discussing possible funding sources, the group felt the next steps would be:

  1. Make inquiries re: the potential funding sources identified in the brainstorm but hold off on speaking to any corporations until a presentation and “pitch package” has been completed (and also the initial version/project content of the tour is completed – in the Historic Downtown Walking tour format – so that it can be demonstrated where we are and where we would like to go)

  2. Finish the project content (the stops and complete the “low-tech version” in the same format as the Historic Downtown Walking tour (i.e. some text and a photo of each “stop”). This link above shows that format.

  3. Once the project content is done and in the Historic Downtown Walking tour format, create a slide deck (and any other materials such as a handout) for corporate sponsorship presentations.

- Fundraising Ideas (continued) – 50th Anniversary grants; Gore Mutual, Galt Lions Club, Regional Tourism, Community Benefits funding from a major development along the creek, etc.

**ACTIONS:**

- LS will assemble the subcommittee to discuss next steps

- complete text and find photos for each destination; subcommittee and CG members can help by going to the Google Doc and

  - working on the text for existing 10-15 stops

  - working on new stops (text and photos) especially in the section of creek that goes underground / piped from Main St. to mouth (ask PW for the route map pdf file as he had the modern underground stormwater pipe/piped creek route overlaid on the 1851 map so that mill ponds locations could be visible....points of interest, such as the 19th century mill ponds, could be written up and perhaps an archival photo found?)

  - adding an “indigenous” stop(?) or info to applicable stops
- seek great photos in Archives online databases and perhaps some new photos taken by members at stops. Find the oblique map of Galt downtown core.

➢ to get help from Archives staff specific questions or information should be known in advance and the form must be completed and submitted in advance of a visit to Archives / meeting with Dan Schmalz

- TREEmendous Cambridge
  o The tool (at the link above) can be used on someone’s phone to look up information on ~500 trees on public properties with a diameter above 1 metre as well as ~50,000+ street trees. They can also view their tree canopy coverage (in %) for their school, property, etc. The information presented includes the species, diameter, Google Street View and address of the tree, and a statement about what the tree contributes in terms of “ecosystem services” (for example, one of the five statements is “Trees combat climate change by absorbing CO2, storing the carbon and releasing oxygen into the air. This reduces our overall carbon footprint. According to the National Tree Benefit Calculator, you would need 10 trees the size of this one to offset the carbon footprint of one car. That’s TREEmendous!”)
  o To promote the app, the City Green group, in partnership with Reep Green Solutions’ Aaron Boonstra and Patrick Gilbride, planned a series of three “walk events” in Hespeler, Galt, and Preston. Each event tour route was chosen to correspond with as many large and interesting street trees as possible from the TREEmendous database. Walking tours took place Thursday, June 21st (Hespeler, 7-8:30pm) with 23 people in attendance; Thursday, September 21st (Galt, 6:30-8pm) with 16 people in attendance; and on Saturday, October 14th (Preston, 2pm-3:30pm). Aaron Boonstra led the walks and covered subjects such as tree identification, mature trees, care, pros and cons of native species versus non-natives, and how do we maintain the urban forest canopy.

3. Cambridge Community Clean Up
  o Saturday, September 17, 2023, 9:30-12 noon
  o Mobile signs installed September 1-17 with promotion message and Sept.18-22 with thank-you; Promotions as per the “City Green list” were launched August 25, 2023.
  o Smaller, lighter tote(s) / supplies for ~100 to each location
  o Last minute issues with Old Post Office, Preston, Queen’s Square and Hespeler locations (construction at Preston and Queen’s Square and Doors Open event at Hespeler and Old Post Office location)
  o Old Post Office location was not used due to the Doors Open event / lack of parking and the poster was changed to reflect that situation
  o City Green members at Idea Exchange locations:
    o Queen’s Square: Linda, Danielle
    o Clemens Mill: Heather Dearlove
    o Hespeler: Sandy and family
    o Preston: Moira, Diane
April 20, 2024 will be the date for the next Cambridge Community Clean Up

The group reviewed the participation numbers from the April and September events, as well as numbers from 2010-2023 and the following observations were made:

- Since 2010, Cambridge City Green has supported autumn litter clean up events by supporting groups with supplies, but only recently has City Green set up distribution booths to support individuals, families, etc.

- Generally, external events such as the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up and the World Clean Up Day, drove the desire to support groups and individuals who wanted to clean up in Autumn.

- April clean ups have attracted 225-560 volunteers to City Green stations (with an additional 2000-4000 people participating through groups).

- Volunteer numbers since COVID have been growing but still 1000-2000 volunteers less than pre-COVID.

- Autumn Organize-Your-Own Clean Ups have attracted 2-4 groups / 50-300 participants.

- Autumn City Green clean ups have attracted between 61-81 participants, far less than the April clean ups which have attracted 225-560 volunteers at 3-6 park locations (now 4-5 Idea Exchange locations).

- Generally, about 3000-5000 volunteers and 30-50 groups participate annually. ~45,000 volunteers have participated since 2010 and have removed 5 tonnes of litter a year or 90 tonnes in total. The highest participation we had was in 2016 with 43 groups / 6,232 participants and several other years we had over 5,000 participants and greater than 60 groups.

The group voted to

- Discontinue the September City Green Cambridge Community Clean Up (at the Idea Exchange locations) given consistent low turnout but would continue to support any groups that requested supplies.

- The Old Post Office location would no longer be staffed (for April) given scarcity of parking and low turnout at that location for the years the group has maintained a booth there.

4. Other Business

5. Information Items
   - 572 members as of September 1, 2023 and 588 members as of October 1, 2023
   - updated Cambridge City Green Calendar (new additions are highlighted)

6. NEXT MEETING: November 2, 2023 6:30-8pm IN PERSON MEETING and have a brainstorm session (hopefully with some new City Green members in attendance as well)
CAMBRIDGE CITY GREEN CALENDAR
(past events are deleted and additions since the last version are highlighted)

- **City Green Meetings**: (usually the first Monday of the month 6:30pm – 8 pm; if there is a statutory holiday we meet the next Monday; we do not meet in July/August).
RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) forward Report No. CEAC-02-23 to the Project Engineer as its comments on the Project File Report for the Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY

- The City of Cambridge is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to establish a new pedestrian bridge across the Speed River in Hespeler.

- The Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee is providing comments to the Project Engineer on the Project File Report for the Hespeler Pedestrian Bridge Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

BACKGROUND

The City of Cambridge is undertaking an environmental assessment to establish a new pedestrian bridge across the Speed River in Hespeler. The bridge would link the existing Mill Run trail on the north side of the Speed River (south of Chilligo Conservation Area) and the new proposed trail on the south side of the Speed River.
along Queen Street West. The new trail connection to the bridge is also a part of the study. See map below for the Study Area.

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to identify the preferred location and type of pedestrian bridge and the preferred alignment of the new trail connection.

**ANALYSIS**

**Existing Policy/By-Law:**
The need for the new pedestrian bridge and proposed trail were identified in the City of Cambridge Cycling Master Plan, completed in 2020.

**Financial Impact:**
The City of Cambridge is funding the Environmental Assessment.

**Public Input:**
A Public Information Centre was held on the City’s public engagement platform from August 29 to September 19, 2022 to share the preliminary preferred solution and receive feedback from the public. The Committee provided comments at this time which were addressed by the project team in a follow-up letter dated June 16, 2023.
On May 30, 2023, Cambridge Council received the Project File Report and authorized staff to issue the report for the formal review period starting June 15 to July 20, 2023.

Internal/External Consultation:
A variety of stakeholders have been engaged in the environmental assessment process including: Indigenous communities, the public, impacted property owners, government agencies including the Grand River Conservation Authority, and interested stakeholders including the Canadian National Railway and the Hespeler Business Improvement Area.

Comments/Analysis:
The Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) has reviewed Appendix C - Environmental Impact Study (EIS) posted for public review as part of the Project File Report and offer the following comments.

The CEAC acknowledges that great care has been given to defining terms, elaborating metrics, and noting where responsibilities will fall for different components of the environmental considerations for the project. The CEAC appreciates the attention to clarity and transparency in the EIS.

1. Speed River Wetland Complex

It is understood that the preferred alternative is within a section of the Speed River Provincially Significant Wetland Complex (PSW)/Core Environmental Feature designation, however the EIS has revealed that at this location the site conditions did not appear to be characteristic of a wetland (as it lacks water and has been influenced by human activities and is traversed by the existing Mill Run Trail). It is understood that wetland boundaries will be required to be delineated and verified by the GRCA during the appropriate season, at the detailed design phase.

Will there be a revision to the PSW boundary if it is determined that the boundary, as currently mapped (originally by the MNRF in 1986) is incorrect? It is noted that there will be permanent loss of approximately 150 sq. m. of wetland/wetland habitat as a result of the project (to be confirmed at detailed design stage). How will Provincial Policy Statement Policy 2.1.4 be addressed, which provides that development and site alteration shall not be permitted in: a) significant wetlands in Ecoregions 5E, 6E and 7E1?

Given that there is recognition that the wetland feature part of the larger complex has already been degraded as a result of human activity (as noted), in this area, what additional longer-term mitigation/rehabilitation measures (and subsequent monitoring) will be implemented to ensure the wetland feature is not further degraded over time, and the boundary further eroded incrementally as a result of the increase in human
activity that will result from the development? Is there any opportunity for additional wetland habitat restoration/monitoring for this part of the wetland complex?

The CEAC requests to be provided with the results of the wetland boundary investigation and resulting EIS addendum (including the identification of any additional restoration opportunities) at the detailed design stage as follow-up.

2. Sound Impact Assessment

In Section 9.2.5 Significant Wildlife Habitat, no mention is given to the impacts of construction sound. In particular, birds and bats are sensitive to increased noise levels. Given there is significant bird habitat present, we request mitigation needs for sound impacts be assessed and included in the detailed design phase and construction planning.

3. Further Involvement

There are many instances where the importance of the detailed design phase is mentioned and recognized in the EIS. The CEAC would welcome the opportunity to be proactively and directly involved in the detailed design phase of this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

SIGNATURE

Prepared by:

______________________  __________________________
Lisa Grbinicek  Danielle Lindamood
CEAC Vice-Chairperson  CEAC Member

______________________  __________________________
Alison Fraser  
CEAC Member

ATTACHMENTS

N/A
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Class EA Questions</th>
<th>R.J. Burnside &amp; Associates Limited Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>• Can the project team clarify why mammalian considerations and impacts were excluded from the evaluation methodology?</td>
<td>Impacts to mammals were considered. There are no den sites, deer wintering areas or other significant habitats for mammals in the Study Area, with the exception of roosting habitats for bats. Bat habitats were considered in the evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In Section 6.2 for Evaluation Criteria, ‘proximity’ is used as an indicator. In general, proximity is one of the least robust indicators that can be used, particularly because proximity does not actually characterize the impact itself but rather notes a general possibility for impact. Can the project team clarify why better, more scientifically robust indicators that would characterize the impact were not used for the evaluation methodology?</td>
<td>Proximity is used as an indicator because no work will occur directly within these natural features. There are no direct impacts occurring within the feature, only activities which occur nearby to a feature. Direct impacts can be measured e.g. the number of trees removed, or X ha of habitat removed. Indirect effects are less easy to quantify. For example, waterfowl may be affected by the human presence, noise etc. if a trail is close by. The degree of that impact is difficult to quantify but it is clear that something that occurs farther away from the habitat will have less effect than something that occurs right beside it. For example, the Alternative Trail Route #1 will have less of an impact on the waterfowl habitat in the Grand River than Alternative #3 which is significantly closer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Design</td>
<td>• As noted on page 65, the entire project is located within the floodplain. This is concerning in general since we’re seeing the widespread economic impacts of a history of building on floodplains, but additionally because of changing climactic conditions from land-use changes and climate change.</td>
<td>Bridges, by their nature, are built in floodplains. Trails are also often located in floodplains, including many existing trails in the City. The bridge will be constructed to current design standards to ensure it can withstand flows and ice jams. Hydraulic modeling was undertaken and will be updated during detailed design. Modeling has shown that the bridge can be constructed without impacts to the floodplain. Design standards related to flows and flood impacts are set by the Conservation Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Class EA Questions</td>
<td>R.J. Burnside &amp; Associates Limited Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Protection / Restoration and Impacts to Wildlife</td>
<td>• CEAC would like to see more explicit language that this land has been allocated first and foremost for conservation land and will remain so. It should be expected that trail users must coexist with that allocation and that wild inhabitants take precedence over trail users. If there are wildlife conflicts or unanticipated impacts to wildlife, CEAC recommends that the City works with rare to determine appropriate next steps. This may mean impromptu trail closures and not just in winter months. Animal trapping and relocation are too often the first line of defense when human / wildlife conflicts occur.</td>
<td>There are currently no standards beyond Conservation Authority regulations for flood impacts. There is a cost to constructing a bridge beyond current standards. The bridge will be designed to sufficiently convey flows for its constructed lifespan. It is understood that this land is intended for conservation purposes. Mitigation has been provided to minimize impacts to wildlife by keeping trail users on the trail to the extent possible. It is not expected that any animal trapping or relocation will be required. Measures have been provided to monitor impacts to wintering waterfowl and raptors. Post-construction monitoring of wintering waterfowl and wintering raptors will occur to identify any significant changes in populations and trigger the need to additional mitigation, if required. The City carried out winter waterfowl surveys in the winter of 2022/23 to further build our understanding of current waterfowl presence. Surveys will then be carried out for three years after construction. Should the trail cause a significant decrease in wintering waterfowl, the trail will be closed during winter months. Criteria will also be established to identify when, and how, the trail could subsequently be reopened in the winter months. This may include additional exclusion measures and/or monitoring. The City also conducted additional winter raptor surveys in the winter of 2022/23. The intent was to confirm the extent of raptor wintering activities occurring on the site and its immediate vicinity. As with waterfowl, wintering raptor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Class EA Questions</td>
<td>R.J. Burnside &amp; Associates Limited Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>habitats will be surveyed for three years post-construction. If significant impacts are observed due to the trail, additional mitigation can be implemented, such as winter trail closures, if required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Page 60 discusses restoration activities. There did not appear to be any notes about how pre-site conditions were assessed. If impacts are not being characterized there is concern that restoration activities will not be robust or effective. Can the project team please clarify how meaningful restoration activities would be undertaken for “areas disturbed during construction”?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Current conditions were assessed and are documented in section 5.0 of the report. Section 5.1.9 in particular documents existing vegetation and habitats. It is noted that the wooded areas in the vicinity of the proposed bridge include a significant proportion of non-native and invasive species. Rare’s Environmental Management Plan also notes this concern. Restoration activities will involve replacing these non-native species with native ones.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CEAC recommends further consultation with an ecologist and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on the proposed removal of the snags identified as bat maternity roosts to more accurately determine the number of bats making use of them, the recommended timing and procedure for safe removal, and that an appropriate number of bat boxes are being installed to compensate for tree removals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks’ (MECP’s) current direction is that if a small number of trees are being removed, and they can be removed outside of the bat roosting season, then no monitoring and no mitigation is required. Bat boxes are not a provincial requirement under the Endangered Species Act for this project. The installation of bat boxes has been added as and extra measure to provide additional habitat. The boxes will be installed in accordance with provincial guidelines for location/design etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• CEAC supports that lighting is not being recommended along the trail route as lighting could have an adverse effect on wildlife movement, breeding, nesting, foraging, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noted.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cash-in-lieu is mentioned on pages 60 and 69 and should be used as a last resort. Cash does not compensate for habitat loss of threatened species and this loss should not be economically quantified in this way. Cash-in-lieu that goes to general habitat protection means this habitat will not be ensured and / or exist within our City and that is an intolerable loss. It is also how</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The cash-in-lieu noted is intended to be an option of last resort. It will only be used if suitable restoration sites are not identified by rare, GRCA or the City.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Class EA Questions</td>
<td>R.J. Burnside &amp; Associates Limited Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>species become endangered. CEAC has a strong preference for habitat restoration, in this case with the Bobolink habitat.</td>
<td>The living fence design will be submitted to CEAC during the detailed design process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>CEAC would like the opportunity to review the “living fence” design that will be developed in consultation with rare, when it is available.</td>
<td>No monitoring is required because it is intended that trees will be cut outside of the bird nesting season and bat roosting season. The text in Table 8.2 reads as follows:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Table 8.2 on page 66 / 67, the EA suggests no monitoring is required for the first substantive item, “Nests of Migratory Birds / Roosting Habitat for Rare Bats”. CEAC suggests spot-check monitoring happen by a qualified professional during construction, particularly for the identification of nesting migratory birds and Species at Risk (SAR). The Contractor or site employees should not be the only mechanism of identification during construction as they are not qualified professionals for this and it could lead to deeper impacts on SAR and nesting migratory birds.</td>
<td>• If clearing must occur within the nesting/roosting window:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• In Table 8.2 on page 66 / 67, the EA suggests no monitoring is required for the first substantive item, “Nests of Migratory Birds / Roosting Habitat for Rare Bats”. CEAC suggests spot-check monitoring happen by a qualified professional during construction, particularly for the identification of nesting migratory birds and Species at Risk (SAR). The Contractor or site employees should not be the only mechanism of identification during construction as they are not qualified professionals for this and it could lead to deeper impacts on SAR and nesting migratory birds.</td>
<td>− A qualified Ecologist Ecologist / Avian Biologist will first search the affected area. Any active nests will be flagged and all clearing within the associated habitat will be avoided until the Ecologist / Avian Biologist confirms that the birds have fledged, and the nest is no longer active;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− If a nesting migratory bird (or SAR protected under ESA, 2007) is identified within or adjacent to the construction site, all activities will stop, and the Contractor shall discuss mitigation measures with the proponent. In addition, the proponent will contact the MECP to discuss applicable mitigation options. The Contractor will proceed based on the mitigation measures established through discussions with the MECP; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− Clearance must be provided by MECP in relation to the removal of trees within the bat roosting season; and,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>− Six Nations will be contacted for comment and/or review of the trees for potential nesting prior to removal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Class EA Questions</td>
<td>R.J. Burnside &amp; Associates Limited Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Further, the Contractor is identified throughout Table 8.2 as the point-person for monitoring activities. Monitoring protocols are most robust when they are undertaken by a third-party. CEAC suggests monitoring activities in Table 8.2 be updated to reflect a third-party approach.</td>
<td>It is therefore intended that a qualified ecologist will carry out any nest search/bat habitat surveys, if required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement</td>
<td>• With respect to trespassing beyond the trail, litter, off-leash dogs and other such impacts that may occur with the construction of a trail, will it be financially feasible for the City to monitor and enforce these issues should they arise?</td>
<td>The city will determine how contract administration and inspection tasks are to be carried out during the detailed planning and tender preparation to be developed in the next phase of the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarification</td>
<td>• Page 30 states, “The Speed River supports a small number of waterfowl and does not provide preferred habitat conditions.” Please consider revising this sentence to clarify the reference is to the 500 m of the Speed River surveyed within the Study Area and not the Speed River in general. This is an important distinction that was made about the Grand River in the section before. The same language and clarity should apply to this statement about the Speed River.</td>
<td>The City intends to work with rare to develop protocols for bylaw enforcement. The trail will be monitored and enforced to the current City standard for all City trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• While Indigenous involvement has obviously been woven throughout the EA and described in plans, there appears to be inconsistency of who is involved throughout. There are mentions of Six Nations, HDI, and Mississaugas of the Credit, but the involvement tends to revert to just Six Nations in several places without explanation. Please provide clarification on how choices are being made for which Indigenous communities were included at various stages of the EA and future project proposal stages.</td>
<td>Each Indigenous community was treated as a separate, unique group. Each expressed their own concerns based on their own priorities. For example, MCFN indicated that they were happy with the EA and did not express a need to participate in further stages of the project, including monitoring. Six Nations indicated that they preferred to be present during construction and wanted to review detailed designs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>