



**AGENDA**

**Communities in Bloom and Environmental Committee**

**Friday, June 5, 2026**

**Municipal Office (14 Mill Avenue, Zurich)**

**Live Streamed to [YouTube](#)**

**10:00 AM**

Accessibility of Documents: Documents are available in alternate formats upon request. If you require an alternate format or communication support, contact the Clerk's Department at 519-236-4351 or by email at [clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca](mailto:clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca) to discuss how best we can meet your needs.

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**1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER**

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

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- 4.1. March 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes  
[Communities in Bloom and Environmental Committee - 13 Mar 2026 - Minutes - Pdf](#)

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.1. Environmental Strategy Update  
5.2. Expression of Interest - Community Led Tree Planting Program

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

## MINUTES

### Communities in Bloom and Environmental Committee

Friday, March 13, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

In Person - 14 Mill Ave, Zurich

#### 1 ROLL CALL and CALL TO ORDER

**PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor Becker, Pam Sangster, Anwar Dean,  
and Sophie Skaith

**ABSENT:** Erma Weernink

**STAFF PRESENT:** Alex Basciano Public Works Technician, Dave Kester  
Manager of Public Works, and Becky Wilson Public  
Works / Facilities Administrative Assistant

#### 2 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof for the current meeting. None declared.

#### 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: Anwar Dean SECONDED: Sophie Skaith  
THAT the March 13, 2026 Communities in Bloom and Environmental Committee  
agenda be approved. CARRIED

#### 4 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED: Anwar Dean SECONDED: Pam Sangster  
THAT the Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2025 Communities in Bloom &  
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes be adopted. CARRIED.

#### 5 DELEGATIONS AND REPORTS

***Green Legacy Tree Program - previous motion revision***

Revised Motion from December 12, 2025 meeting to remove the vibrancy grant funding in the 2027 budget cycle as there is a separate vibrancy grant policy that would need to be followed.

Revised motion: THAT the Committee request Council to direct staff to engage with community groups to determine interest in a project similar to the Green Legacy Tree Program;  
AND THAT staff continue identifying additional funding opportunities for tree planting initiatives.

## **6 NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Environmental Strategy Work Update***

**MOVED:** Pam Sangster **SECONDED:** Sophie Skaith

THAT the Committee receive the work update regarding the Environmental Strategy as information. **CARRIED.**

[Environmental Strategy Update](#)

### ***Information on Ontario Tree Resource Materials***

**MOVED:** Pam Sangster **SECONDED:** Anwar Dean

THAT the Committee receive this report for information and  
THAT the Spotted Lanternfly Pest Alert Poster be shared publicly through municipal communication channels. **CARRIED.**

[Information on Ontario Tree Resource Materials](#)

## **7 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED:** Anwar Dean

THAT the March 13, 2026 meeting of the Communities in Bloom & Environmental Committee be adjourned at 10:11am. **CARRIED**

## Environmental Strategy – Progress Summary

This summary outlines the work completed to date on the development of the Municipality's Environmental Strategy by the MES group.

### 1. Project Foundations

- Developed and submitted the full project proposal and executive summary, outlining:
  - Project purpose and guiding objectives
  - Key phases and deliverables
  - Anticipated benefits
  - High-level project timeline

### 2. Research and Background Review

- Conducted a review of comparable municipal environmental strategies to:
  - Identify common priority areas
  - Inform survey development
  - Help shape the structure of the final Environmental Strategy document
- Summarized findings from previous municipal surveys and public engagement activities relevant to environmental priorities.
- Completed a thorough review of Council and Communities in Bloom & Environmental Committee meeting minutes to identify:
  - Recurring themes
  - Environmental concerns
  - Potential action items
- Reviewed relevant federal and provincial environmental policies to ensure alignment with upper-tier legislative and strategic direction.

### 3. Feasibility & Framework Development

- Developed a feasibility framework based on the Municipality's defined budget, timelines, and operational capacity.
- Facilitated internal discussions with:
  - CIBE
  - Blue Flag Program
  - Facilities Management
  - Ausable Bayfield Conservation AuthorityThese sessions helped assess the feasibility of potential action items and informed strategic priority setting.

### 4. Community Engagement Survey Preparation

- Designed the community survey, including:
  - Drafting and refining question sets
  - Transferring the finalized version into Google Forms
  - Completing internal quality checks
- Survey is now pending client review prior to public distribution.

## Information on Ontario Tree Resource Materials

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### Recommendation:

THAT the Committee receive this report for information and

THAT the [Spotted Lanternfly Pest Alert Poster](#) be shared publicly through municipal communication channels.

### Purpose

To provide updated information on Ontario tree resources, current planting programs, and emerging threats relevant to tree management within the Municipality of Bluewater.

### Background

Committee members continue to track provincial updates related to tree resources, local ecosystem health, and invasive species. New or updated resources and alerts have recently been issued by the Province of Ontario and external forestry organizations.

This briefing note summarizes these materials for Committee awareness.

### Information & Details

#### 1. Tree Planting Grants and Programs

Several programs remain available to support tree planting initiatives across Ontario.

- **Maple Leaves Forever – Grant Program**  
Supports planting of native Canadian maples on rural properties.  
Link: <https://mapleleavesforever.ca/>
- **Forests Canada – National Programs**  
A suite of national tree-planting and community forestry programs.  
Link: <https://forestscanada.ca/en/programs>

#### 2. Ontario Tree Atlas

A provincial resource providing species profiles, maps, and ecological information for trees native to Ontario. Link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/tree-atlas>

#### 3. Emerging Threats to Trees in Ontario / Bluewater

##### a. Spotted Lanternfly

An invasive insect posing threat to hardwood trees and agricultural crops. The Province has issued an updated pest alert.

**Provincial Pest Alert – Key Actions for Residents and Staff**

The Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is a quarantine pest in Canada. Suspected sightings should be photographed and reported immediately to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). If collecting a sample, place eggs, nymphs, or adults into a sealed container or bag with alcohol or vinegar to kill them; do not transport live specimens. Include the location, date, and the item/plant where the insect or egg mass was found. A clear image is needed for confirmation.

Report and learn more: [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly \(CFIA\)](https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-spotted-lanternfly-pest-alert-en-2023-07-21.pdf)

Link: <https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-spotted-lanternfly-pest-alert-en-2023-07-21.pdf>

**b. Black Walnut Diseases**

Diseases including *Thousand Cankers Disease* continue to pose risks to black walnut populations.

- Invasive Species Centre Info: <https://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/forest/thousand-cankers-disease-2/>
- Ontario Black Walnut Overview: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/black-walnut>

**Impact**

- Awareness of disease and invasive species threats supports the municipality's tree planting.
- Grant programs may align with roadside tree planting initiatives.
- Updated resources can be shared with the public.
- The provincial Pest Alert ([Poster](#)) will support public awareness by providing step-by-step guidance on how to report sightings and handle specimens safely.

**Financial Impact**

None at this time.

Opportunities for grant funding may reduce future municipal costs related to tree planting projects.

**Communications**

Staff can post the Spotted Lanternfly Pest Alert (Poster) on the municipal website and share on social media to encourage accurate reporting to CFIA and discourage transport of live specimens. A short link to [Canada.ca/spotted-lanternfly](https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-spotted-lanternfly-pest-alert-en-2023-07-21.pdf) will be used in all posts.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- None (links included within report)

Information Submitted By:	Pam Sangster, Committee Member
Prepared By:	Becky Wilson, Administrative Assistant
Concurred:	Alex Basciano, Public Works Tech
Approved for Submission:	Dave Kester, Manager of Public Works