

## New Edinburgh Community Alliance

### Minutes

**NECA Board Meeting – 20 January 2026 - 7:00 pm**

*By Zoom*

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**Board members present:** Ray Boomgaardt, Sarah Anson-Cartwright, Ted Bennett, Sean Flynn, Katherine Lloyd, Gail McEachern, Kostyantyn Frolov, Cindy Parkanyi, Karen Squires, Chris Straka, Jason Tavoularis

**Absent:** Sharon Nyangweso

**Guests:** Councillor King, Erin McCracken & Athena Oriet (from the Councillor's Office) and approx 9 members of the community.

#### 1. Welcome (Ray)

- Agenda - APPROVED
- November 2025 meeting minutes - APPROVED
- October 2025 NECA AGM minutes - APPROVED

#### 2. Councillor's Report (joined meeting at 8:18)

- **Infrastructure budgets**– St. Patrick street bridge work, sewer outlet at end of John Street fieldhouse improvements.
- **Beechwood Public Realm** – Traffic analysis being completed to inform the design. Project will move forward after Feb consultation.
- **Parking** – work is still underway on the proposal and petitions.
- **Meeting with BIA** - They have agreed to host a meeting with the Vanier BIA in the near term.
- **Vanier parkway** - speed limit reduced from 60 to 50 km/between Beechwood and Montreal Road to address safety challenges near the construction zone at St. Patrick
- **Fieldhouse** - room dividers have some structural issues which will hopefully be fixed soon. Will then look at possibility of the FH roof extension
- **Winter maintenance operations** - Flagged timely plowing of laneways have been a recurring issue.
- **Questions from guests:**
  - o RE Crichton and snow piles restricting traffic to one lane which affects OCTranspo buses - Councillor will be following up with staff on this to see if there is a solution.
  - o RE Parking - from one of the community volunteers collecting petitions - Union to Queen Vic and Queen Vic to Keefer - the feedback has been that parking is a big issue. They hope to complete the collection of petitions in the next 4-6 weeks. Will it be possible to change the parking restrictions to a portion of the street if the whole street is not unanimous. Councillor noted that it could be possible but this might move the problem to other areas of the street.
  - o Sussex Blocks - Ray noted that the NCC said they generally respect the City's review process for any application for redevelopment of the lands, but they are not required to do so.

### 3. Correspondence re Greenbelt and Family doctors

- The National Capital Greenbelt Campaign Coordinator, working with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is working on a campaign to strengthen protections for the Ottawa Greenbelt and has asked for our support. Ray suggests that given we do not have involvement we should reply with a polite no. They are looking to have the greenbelt protected in law and not simply by policy. Ray will circulate the letter for decision at the next meeting.
- Family doctor request for support - Ray will circulate the request for discussion at the next meeting.

### 4. Distribution of “The Villagers”

What do we do with the extra copies? Suggestions include little libraries, but there was concern about this. Other possibilities include other groups (NCC, City, Riverkeepers, Heritage Ottawa) or to BRICK award recipients, libraries, retirement homes. Sarah will look into getting one to the Rockcliffe Library, Gail will check in to Rockcliffe Retirement home, Ted will do New Ed Square, Ray will do Governor’s Walk, The Edinburgh and Heritage Ottawa.

### 5. Committee and working group updates

**New Edinburgh News** (Karen): 50th anniversary year. Trying to support businesses along Beechwood. There was an approx 10% increase in ad sales. Sean had canvassed several community newspapers to see what they do for insurance. The conclusion is that the NEN does not need a separate policy. It was agreed that in lieu of the gift of The Villagers book, that NECA/NEN gives Dave Rostenne a \$100 gift certificate for MEC in appreciation of his many years of providing support to the community.

**MOTION** - That NECA not renew the CNRE insurance policy for the New Edinburgh News (NEN) effective Jan 2026, on the basis that NEN is already covered by the NECA general liability policy. PASSED.

**Traffic and Safety** (Jason): No report. Stephane reported that partial results of the parking petition are in – volunteers from Crichton distributed and followed up on the petitions.

**Beechwood Development** (Kostyantyn): Beechwood Public Realm consultation will take place in Feb.

**Heritage and Development** (Gail):

- Gail has signed up for a table at the Feb 17 Heritage Day event at the City Hall. Janet Uren will also be there.
- There was a question about the tree that was taken down in front of the old MacKay United manse. Does NECA get notified? Answer is not usually, but there is normally a sign that gets posted at the site.
- Meeting with the NCC and CEO Tobi Nussbaum regarding the Sussex Blocks - Sarah reported that the 45-minute meeting was cordial. Highlights - NCC do not have a timeline - check back in 1-2 years. They did not agree to advance community engagement as they have not landed on a process yet. They follow a good neighbour process with municipalities and confirmed that an application should be subject to the City’s review process. Because the blocks have been open spaces in the past, that does not mean they will continue as such. Lots to be determined. They did agree to continuing dialogue. There will be a write up in the NEN. John McNee reported that the online petition for Sussex now has 1,509 signatures. Ellen asked if there is a way to push to ensure space for, and planting of, mature trees?

**Friends of the Park** (Karen/Katherine): Will be reaching out to Riverkeeper soon for the April park cleanup. Katherine has been trying to engage with the City on dealing with invasive species.

**Communications** (Cindy): Setting up a series of WG meetings to coordinate initiatives including moving to email accounts and joining the Google Workspace. Suggested not renewing the Zoom account (due 2 April 2026) as we have free access to Google Meet.

## **6. Community group updates**

**CCC** (Chris): No report.

**Kichi Sibi Trails** (Cindy): No report (missing tonight's meeting).

## **7. Other Business:**

- Ellen Hagerman spoke about the new privatized recycling program. One issue is that they may be able to incinerate up to 15%. Collecting from a smaller outreach - leaving out alcohol bottles. There is a NGO (Bottleworks - youth unemployment) looking at putting a program in place to collect the alcohol bottles, like a monthly collection (Glebe is looking at piloting this).

## **8. Adjournment**

- Next Board meeting is 17 February 2026 online.
- Adjourned at 8:58 pm.