



ARNPRIOR

**Town of Arnprior  
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting  
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026  
Time: 6:30 PM**

**Location: Council Chambers – 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Land Acknowledgement**
4. **Adoption of Agenda**
5. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**
6. **Adoption of Previous Minutes**
  - a) **Regular Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2026** (Page 1-6)
7. **Presentations / Delegations**
8. **Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business**
9. **Staff Reports (by Department)**
  - a) **Discussion Items:**
    - i. **Draft Action Plan – Bee City Initiative** – A/Environmental Engineering Officer
    - ii. **Pollinator Meadow Update** – A/Environmental Engineering Officer
    - iii. **Rain Barrel Initiative** – A/Environmental Engineering Officer and Director of Recreation
10. **New Business**
  - a) **Presentation - Positioning Our Community for the Growing Cycle Tourism Market** – Lessia Stefanison, Committee Member (Page 6-23)
  - b) **Committee Work Plan Discussion**
  - c) **Roundtable Discussion**
11. **Adjournment**

The agenda is made available in the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior and on the Town's [website](#). Persons wishing to receive a print item on the agenda by email, fax, or picked up by hand may request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1817. The Agenda and Agenda items will be prepared in an accessible format upon request.

**Full Distribution:** Council, CAO, Town Staff, Committee Members



ARNPRIOR

## Minutes of the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026

6:30 PM

Council Chambers – Town Hall

### Committee and Staff Attendance

#### Committee Members Present:

Chris Toner, Vice Chair  
Ted Strike, Councillor  
Lessia Stefanison, Committee Member  
Alexis Young, Committee Member

#### Committee Members Absent:

Natalie Deveau, Chair  
Barry Goodman, Committee Member  
Ben Shearer, Committee Member

#### Town Staff Present:

Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk  
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation  
Sheena Baum, A/Environmental  
Engineering Officer  
Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of  
Community Services/Planner  
Kelly Vieira, Client Services  
Coordinator  
Emily Stovel, Manager of  
Culture/Curator  
John Steckly, General Manager of  
Operations

### 1. Call to Order

Chris Toner, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

### 2. Roll Call

The roll was called, with all Members of the Committee being present except Natalie Deveau, Barry Goodman, and Ben Shearer.

### 3. Land Acknowledgment

Chris Toner, Vice Chair, asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

#### 4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 001-26

Moved by Alexis Young

Seconded by Ted Strike

**Be It Resolved That** the agenda for the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting dated Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

#### 5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

#### 6. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 002-26

Moved by Lessia Stefanison

Seconded by Ted Strike

**That** the minutes for the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Environmental Advisory Committee meetings be adopted.

Resolution Carried

#### 7. Presentations/ Delegations

None

#### 8. Matters Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business

None

#### 9. Staff Reports

##### a) Official Plan Policy – Environmental Protection Areas and Tree Cutting –

Manager of Community Services/Planner

The Manager of Community Services/Planner provided information and options for a tree cutting by-law and environmental protections. As well as an overview of the current policies in the Official Plan including environmental protection areas and other environmental areas. This included information surrounding the Municipal Act provisions for a tree cutting by-law and site alteration by-law.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with the following being a summary of the comment:

- What can be done about trees on Town property that are cut without the Town's knowledge?
  - Tree cutting on private property would currently be a civil/ legal matter.

- Can the Town provide information to the public to educate on the location of environmentally protected areas and inform homeowners who reside in protected areas. Social media posts, website promotion, targeted mailers. Committee recommends social media posts and website content that references back to the Official Plan and environmentally protected areas.
- Discussion ensued surrounding other tree cutting by-laws in surrounding municipalities and their enforcement.

Committee members requested through the Chair the following motion:

Resolution Number 003-26

Moved by Alexis Young

Seconded by Lessia Stefanison

**That** the Committee recommend that the Council investigate the potential of a tree cutting by-law for environmentally protected zones, both Town owned and privately owned.

Resolution Carried

**b) Museum Art Exhibit and Community Event Update** – Manager of Culture/Curator

The Manager of Culture/Curator provided information following up on the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting held at the Arnprior and District Museum. This includes having an artist produce a comic on one of two topics; tree planting and waste reduction, as well as a conversations event and a communication strategy to inform the public on the work being completed by the committee.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with the following being a summary of the comment:

- Committee members expressed interest in the topics presented for creating a comic strip on both tree planning and waste reduction. They also supported holding a workshop to connect the community to the art installation of the comic strip.
  - Committee members were asked to think about one or two questions they would like to bring to the community to incorporate into the work.
- The Environmental Engineering Officer and Manager of Culture/Curator noted they will bring back a proposal and presentation for the committee to review and plan how to roll this work out to community. Vice Chair, Councillor Chris Toner will reach out and draft a letter to service clubs for their interest in this matter.

- Committee members commented on the opportunity to present to Council in September as a wrap up on what they have accomplished in this term of the Environmental Advisory Committee, including what interests they have heard from residents on environmental issues as well the committee's recommendations for a future committee mandate.

**c) Municipal Gardens – Native Species** – General Manager, Operations & Director of Recreation

The General Manager, Operations and Director of Recreation provided drawings depicting the flower beds to be planted in the spring at Town Hall and the library. This included native perennial plants which would be salt and drought tolerant.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with the following being a summary of the comment:

- Committee members commented on whether the plants would be cost effective in the long-term, perennials being more expensive as an upfront cost.
- Committee members commented on whether the Town will be including signage about what plants are in the gardens.

**d) Pollinator Meadow Update** – A/Environmental Engineering Officer

The Acting Environment Engineering Officer provided information as an update to the Pollinator Meadow initiative. Town was hoping to have finalized quantity of plants and a timeline from Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) but are still waiting with an estimated 600-900 plugs of plants to come. The location for the plants requires preparation and signage. Staff are continuing to work on this project.

**e) Arnprior Trash Hunt, Pitch In Week, Earth Day** – A/Environmental Engineering Officer and Director of Recreation

The Acting Environment Engineering Officer and Director of Recreation provided information on events taking place for Earth Day on April 22, 2026, and Pitch in Week from April 27 to May 3, 2026. It was noted that the final weekend will be the Great Arnprior Trash Hunt community run event.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with the following being a summary of the comment:

- Committee members were asked if they recognized areas that could use a clean up to provide those locations to the Great Arnprior Trash Hunt organizers or Town staff to be able to pass along this information to those participating in clean up efforts.

- Committee asked that resources, public education, or info be shared to the Town social media channels, and Town website. These resources will be provided by committee members.

## 10. New Business

### a) Committee Workplan Discussion

Chris Toner, Vice Chair, asked the Committee for any updates regarding the workplan. Discussion ensued amongst Committee Members resulting in the following updates to the workplan:

<b>Focus 1: Support Local Flora</b>	<b>Update/ Completed</b>
Pollinator garden in Town	Complete
Educational materials for residents about native and pollinator species	Complete – on website and with the QR codes
Garden Awards	Remove from the plan
Understanding heritage/natural protected sites zoning	Complete – recommendation
Dark Sky Initiative	Resources on web
Bee City Canada Initiative	Staff have reviewed, will look for support on the application content. Requires Council resolution of support. Creating and promoting habitat, celebration during Pollinator Week.
<b>Focus 2: Waste Reduction</b>	<b>Update/ Completed</b>
Alternatives to traditional curbside green bin collection	Complete – presentation from Just Good compost and foodcycler
Foodcycler Promotion	Complete
Educational materials to support proper recycling	Added more info for the webpage
<b>Focus 3: Healthy Waterways</b>	<b>Update/ Completed</b>
Reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species	Complete
Educational materials to support residents in reducing invasive species spread	Complete
Options for cleaning boats at marina	Previously reviewed – not currently attainable

<b>Focus 4: Carbon Footprint Reduction</b>	<b>Update/ Completed</b>
Increase efficiencies/energy conservation at Town Buildings	Looking into it with Alexis, Natalie, and Ben
Supporting active transportation	Lessia and Alexis to present findings from conference at May meeting. Transportation Master Plan has not yet come to Council.
Energy efficiencies in new developments	Ben wanted to ask about this and understand what could be looked into. More to come

**b) Roundtable Discussion**

None

**11. Adjournment**

Resolution Number 004-25

Moved by Alexis Young

Seconded by Lessia Stefanison

**That** the Environmental Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:12 PM.

Resolution Carried

# **Arnprior: Positioning Our Community for the Growing Cycle Tourism Market**

A Strategic Roadmap to Enhancing Our Local Infrastructure and Economy

Presented to the Arnprior Environmental Advisory Committee

May 19, 2026

# Executive Summary

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## The Opportunity

Cycle tourism is a high-value, low-impact industry with significant economic potential. Arnprior sits at a strategic regional junction, yet is currently viewed as a "gap" in the network.

**Goal:** Transition Arnprior from a pass-through town into a primary destination by addressing specific infrastructure and amenity deficits.



# Strategic Priorities



## Proper Trailheads

Establishing OVR trailheads with essential amenities: dedicated parking, accessible bathrooms, and water bottle refill stations.



## Market Visibility

Ensuring local businesses are certified by **Ontario By Bike** to gain visibility with high-value tourists spending \$365/trip.



## Community Status

Pursuing the **Bicycle Friendly Community** designation to signal a safe, supported environment for both tourists and residents.

# Addressing the Perception Barrier

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## Current Status

Arnprior is explicitly identified to the cycle tourism industry as a community that is "**not cycle friendly.**"



## Key Deficit

Lack of clear wayfinding, safety signage, and visible cycling infrastructure at trailheads.



## Strategic Pivot

Acknowledging this perception allows us to build a roadmap for intentional, data-driven improvements.

# The Economic Case: Comparative Spending

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1.7x



Cyclists spend \$365/trip vs non  
cyclists who only spend \$206/trip

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**High-Yield Visitors:** Cycle tourists spend nearly **1.7x more** than the average visitor. They prioritize local dining, retail, and quality lodging.

In 2023 cyclists spent \$532M in Ontario, which is 1.5% of total visitor spending.

# Arnprior's Strategic Location

## The Connector Community

Arnprior acts as the gateway connecting Renfrew and Lanark Counties to the National Capital Region. Specifically, the intersection of the Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail (OVRT) and the McNab/Braeside Rail Trail creates a premier tourism hub potential.

**Primary Asset:** Arnprior's unique Ottawa River location and inclusion on both the Voyageur Cycle Route (645km) and the Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop (360km loop).



# Conference Highlights:

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## Strategic Steps for Cycle Tourism

**Essential Trailhead Infrastructure:** Establishing a proper trailhead on the OVR Trail is a fundamental requirement, which must include dedicated parking, public washrooms, and water bottle refill stations.

**Eastern Ontario Rail Trail Loop:** Renfrew County is actively collaborating on a regional loop that includes the OVR in Arnprior. The finalized project will be a 360 km signature cycling experience. Once complete, the loop is projected to attract over 200,000 cyclists and generate \$107 million in total economic impact for local communities.

**Ontario By Bike Visibility:** Local businesses listed on the Ontario Cycling Map gain direct visibility with a highly engaged market.

**Bicycle Friendly Community Status:** Achieving this official designation is a powerful draw, as cyclists actively seek out these communities knowing they offer safe, supported biking routes.

# Information on joining the Ontario Cycling Map (Ontario By Bike)

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## Who Can Participate?

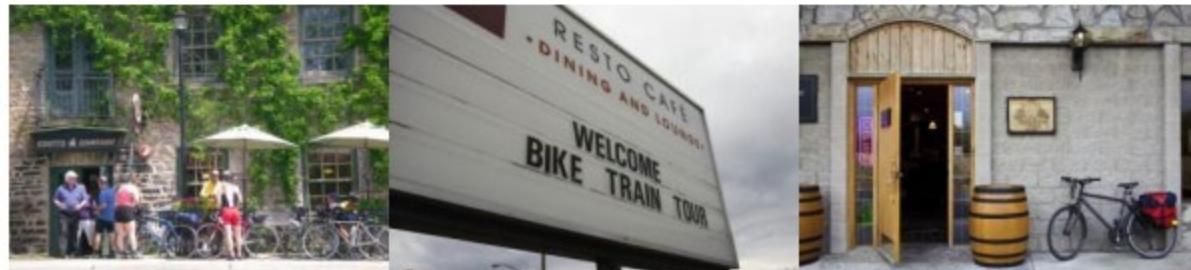


Ontario By Bike is **free** for businesses who:

- Comply with the certification criteria for each category
- Are located in region that the program is offered

- **Accommodation providers**
- **Campgrounds**  
Including National & Provincial Parks & Conservation Areas
- **Food services providers**
- **Tourist attractions**  
Including National & Provincial Parks & Conservation Areas
- **Business areas**
- **Other cycling-related businesses/organizations**

[www.ontariobybike.ca/addyourbusiness](http://www.ontariobybike.ca/addyourbusiness)  
[www.ontariobybike.ca/terms](http://www.ontariobybike.ca/terms)



<https://www.ontariobybike.ca/ontario-cycling-map/>

# Bicycle Friendly Community

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## The Case Statement:

The Bicycle Friendly Communities program provides a roadmap to improve connections and recognizes municipalities who make cycling a real transportation and recreation option for people of all ages and abilities.

A Bicycle Friendly Community is more sustainable, connected, equitable, vibrant, and livable.

How to apply

<https://sharetheroad.ca/bfc-apply/>



# Infrastructure Gap: Signage & Safety

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**The "White Knuckle" Effect:** Feedback received at the conference was that cyclists did not feel safe cycling in Arnprior.

**Solution:** Implementation of a standardized, high-visibility signage package from town borders to core hubs and trailheads.



# Infrastructure Gap: The Amenity Hub

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## Targeted Investments

To move from "Unfriendly" to "Hub," Arnprior requires low-cost, high-impact trailhead amenities:

- Water bottle refill stations
- Signage
- Parking at trailheads

# Engaging Our Community



Fostering Youth Participation and Active Transportation Habits

# Pump Tracks: Youth Engagement



## More Than Just a Park

Pump tracks offer a safe, non-competitive environment that boosts confidence and coordination for all ages and wheels. They provide an **energy-burning, screen-free activity** that turns fitness into play.

By providing a designated space for children to experiment, we reduce anti-social behavior and encourage social engagement.

# Cycle Safety & Education

## Building Safe Foundations

Events like **Bike Rodeos** are foundational for youth engagement. They teach essential safety skills, balance, and road rules in a safe, controlled environment.

Early education translates to a future generation of safe, confident road users, directly supporting the Town's environmental and safety goals.



Almonte Civitan example (<https://share.google/KgKvD15dOCb0IrsDz>) and potentially work with OVCATA for a future event.

# Main Strategic Recommendation

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## Objective: Form a “Bicycle Friendly Community” task force to complete the First Time application by March 31, 2027

- Why a Task Force? The BFC recommends a multi-sector approach to simplify data collection and maximize community engagement.
- Key Stakeholders: Municipal staff, local cycling groups, public health, schools, and local business owners.
- The Goal: Use the application process to identify infrastructure gaps and formalize Arnprior’s commitment to active transportation.

### Commitment:

I am prepared to support this task force starting in Autumn 2026, contingent upon Council's support and staff collaboration.



Fuel up!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DXPRuESjKn8/>

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## **A Healthy, Connected Arnprior**

The BFC framework provides the cohesion we need. It organizes various active transportation goals into a single roadmap that aligns the Town with key community partners, ensuring our efforts are collaborative, efficient, and impactful.

# Questions?

Arnprior Environmental Advisory Committee