



Village of Kingston
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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPT 9, 2021

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler - Chair
Mike Bishop – Vice Chair
Muriel West
Brad Beardsley
Neil Larder

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Martha Armstrong – Councillor, District 4, Municipality of the County of Kings
Chris Palmer – MLA Kings West

OPENING

Chair Fowler called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm and congratulated MLA Chris Palmer on his recent election win.

COUNCILLOR ARMSTRONG

Victoria Drive

Councillor Armstrong received phone calls from a few residents of Victoria Drive regarding the poor condition of their road. One resident is in a wheelchair and considers the road to be dangerous, having to veer around potholes. Councillor Armstrong asked County Engineer Scott Quinn if Victoria Drive could be switched with Markland Road this year for the J-Class repaving and the answer was it could not. Clerk had previously advised Scott Quinn that all of Victoria Drive, including the extension, needs repaving. The County and Department of Transportation feel the extension would involve removing massive trees and would be too costly. The Victoria Drive extension suffers constant flooding and the residents are upset.

Westwood St Flooding

Councillor Armstrong has been receiving complaints about the flooding on Westwood St ever since the new construction was completed at the south end. Clerk stated he met the NS Public Works (Department of Transportation) area supervisor and maintenance manager at the site and they decided to put in a small trench as a temporary solution. The trench is a short-term solution since they do not have a legal easement on the trenched property and a long-term solution is not affordable at this time. Area supervisor said he would bring the issue to his superiors for a solution, hopefully for next year.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Councillor Armstrong advised the Commission that JAAC member Patricia Norris, who represented the western area of the county, passed away in July.

MLA CHRIS PALMER REPORT

MLA Chris Palmer introduced himself and informed the Commission that his new office will be centrally located in Berwick. The new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is John Lohr and he will be the advocate for any issues the Village may have.

Councillor Armstrong advised MLA Chris Palmer that there is desperate need for NS Housing Authority to improve the unsightly appearance and overall condition of the low-income housing in Kingston and other areas. The tenants do not have to care about the appearance of their rentals since nobody is policing them. There should be regular inspections inside and out and maintenance should be on an ongoing basis; the whole system needs to be fixed. MLA Chris Palmer appreciated the update and stated the role of the department needs to be determined.

The new PC provincial government's priority is fixing healthcare. MLA Chris Palmer had a meeting with Don Hyslop, the Village of Kingston's representative on the Mid Valley Region Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee. Don Hyslop has been named the navigator for the area. There will be a tour of the province by the new Health Minister to meet front line people. An open forum will take place that people will be able to sign up for that meeting. MLA will include the Village on any official correspondence.

Chair Fowler also informed newly elected MLA Chris Palmer that the Village has been working for years to get a water system and that talks are being held with Kings County to possibility tap into their Greenwood water utility.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the August 11, 2021 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Fowler asked for any business arising from the minutes of August 11, 2021.

As per Public Works report, Commission suggested one possible location for installing the two other streetlamps is in front of the Irving parking lot. It could be part of an overall beautification of that area. Clerk will contact Irving for permission to use 3 or 4 feet of their property to add planters and benches for next year's capital budget. The Village could get approval from the Department of Public Works to install them on the sidewalk, as long as the snow clearing machines are able to get through.

The Commission commended Emily Harris and Glen Abriel for planning and holding a successful outdoor movie night at Centennial Park with over 75 in attendance.

Commission agreed to include an amount at budget time to hold more movie events next year.

The siding for the library was ordered and should arrive in 4 to 5 weeks. The installation should be completed by late November and must be completed by December 31st.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for any additions to the agenda. Commission agreed to add an in-camera session to the agenda.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH IN-CAMERA ADDITION. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS – See Full Reports

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

As per report, during the meeting between staff and engineers from RV Anderson and Associates, staff were advised that a scope of work could determine what is needed at the sewer treatment plant. Staff will provide engineers with as-built drawings of the clarifier and overall record drawings of the expansion in 1993. The Village will then be able to issue a tender for an overall assessment of what the sewer treatment plant requires.

Staff would also like to scan and PDF all of the Village's sewer drawings; Commission agreed to discuss that item, as well as GIS mapping, during the next capital budget.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Village had to hire out street sweeping for the side streets since the Department of Transportation only had funds to do Main St and Bridge St.

Commissioner Bishop learned that residents in the new small options home have to travel on part of Westwood St in their wheelchairs before accessing the nearest sidewalk.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Commission asked if there were grants available from the County of Kings for outdoor movie sound and screen equipment. Clerk said there are grants available but they are more for recreation day camps and park maintenance than entertainment. Commissioner Beardsley has speakers that were purchased for the school last year if the Village is interested in learning more about them.

Clerk will look into the progress Rec staff are making on the Oakhurst Subdivision greenspace and the disc golf at Ravenwood park.

Greg Peck will find out who the Steer BBQ signing authorities are and make sure the funds are transferred to the Village.

EMILY HARRIS REPORT – See Full Report

Emily has worked beyond the 10-week summer job grant on other projects such as a collaborative business group for the area. She was in contact with Valley REN (Regional Enterprise Network) who sent her to Roman3 Solutions. She is organizing a meeting with Roman3 Solutions who offer a free consultation providing different options for businesses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Steer BBQ Committee – No report

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

Commissioner Bishop reported Commission has to approve Amanda Baker as the new community representative for the western region.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY TO ACCEPT AMANDA BAKER AS THE NEW COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee

The Village received correspondence from the County of a proposed development agreement to allow for a self-storage building on Main St. After a discussion, the Commission had no objections to the development. There will also be a public meeting for both the Village and the County before it can be approved.

Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation (SMHF)

Clerk will invite Kelly Hutton, Chair of SMHF to the next Village Commission meeting on October 14th. The donations to the foundation for doctor recruitment are for that purpose only. There is a meet and greet taking place in Bridgetown for the new doctor and the Commission will be invited and encouraged to attend.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The government recently passed legislation to make September 30th a federal statutory holiday for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The province and most municipalities in Nova Scotia have added this day to their employee holiday list.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSION BEARDSLEY THAT THE COMMISSION DECLARE SEPTEMBER 30TH A PAID HOLIDAY FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES TO COMMEMORATE THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk will inform all staff members.

New Public Works Building

Land appraisals were completed and the Village land is worth more than Parsons Investments land. Parsons has agreed to pay the difference of \$4,000 on the land exchange.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON COMMISSION DISPOSE OF VILLAGE OWNED LANDS. THE LANDS ARE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON PORTION(S) OF TWO LARGER PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED CURRENTLY AS PID#5532294 AND PID #55390603. IN RETURN, THE VILLAGE WILL ACCEPT \$4,000.00 EXCLUDING APPLICABLE TAXES AND TWO PARCELS OF LAND FROM PARSONS INVESTMENTS/MID VALLEY CONSTRUCTION. THE LAND IS PID#55477822 AND A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON PORTION OF PID #55121842. MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk will send a letter to the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing seeking consent to allow the Village to dispose of land(s) at market value. Once approved, the Village can move forward with the construction of the new Public Works in a better location.

Stronach Park Ducks

A public discussion took place on Facebook regarding the safety of the wild ducks at Stronach Park and suggestions were made to have a duck crossing sign and to add a fence and a cement platform to prevent ducks from sunning on the sidewalk. Staff advised there was a fence years ago when the ducks were tame which was unsuccessful in keeping them from being injured. Signs advising people not to feed the ducks may be considered to lessen the number congregating.

14 Wing Airport Obstruction

Commission agreed to allow 14 Wing to trim or remove trees that are located on Village property and are hazardous to flight safety.

NS Transportation Department

The newly elected PC government has renamed the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to the Department of Public Works.

Capital: Water Study

Scott Quinn from the County of Kings is going to reschedule the meeting that was to take place on September 10th with the Clerk regarding tapping into Greenwood's water utility.

Finance Report – See full report

CORRESPONDENCE:

Truth and Reconciliation Day Walk

The Village Commission has been invited by 14 Wing Greenwood to participate in a walk to commemorate the residential school victims. Participants are encouraged to wear commemorative orange or black t-shirts. Clerk will take orders for t-shirts from staff and commission who are interested in receiving them.

Battle of Britain Parade

Chair was invited to the 81st anniversary service of the Battle of Britain taking place at 14 Wing Greenwood on September 19th.

In Camera Discussion

Commission began in-camera meeting at 8:30pm.

In-camera session ended at 8:52pm.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:55PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER