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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF OCT 14, 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
Kelly Hutton – Chair and Village of Kingston Representative with the Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation

OPENING

Chair Fowler called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm and welcomed Councillor Armstrong and Kelly Hutton.

SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

Kelly Hutton reported he has been the Village's representative for 10 years and has seen many changes. The foundation is:

- In good shape financially due to good investment decisions by Jim Mosher, head of the foundation for the last 40 years.
- \$200,000 spent annually on infrastructure and renewal projects at the hospital.
- Fundraising ongoing but efforts stalled during Covid-19.
- Waiting for treasury board approval to pay a share of over \$300,000 to CT Scan fundraising effort at Valley Regional Hospital.
- Foundation has rewritten bylaws, invented position of past president, added term limits for positions of not more than 6 years in a row.
- Long time members have retired and those positions have been filled.
- Foundation has no actual impact on doctor recruitment. It is a function of the Health Authority, the Department of Health and the doctors. There are multiple layers of approvals to go through and it can take 8 months or more for a doctor to get approved even coming from Alberta.
- Doctors are given a tour of the hospital and are now given a tour of the whole area to help entice them to move here. The foundation is looking at villages and towns to help with this effort.
- The number one issue is the lack of permanent/temporary housing. The other issue is the red tape involved in the process.

- A sub-committee is putting on an event in Bridgetown on October 23rd with 65 in attendance. Foundation would like to see more of these events taking place such as at the 14 Wing Greenwood Annapolis Mess.
- Foundation sent a video to the new PC government expressing the need for help in this area, with 7,000 residents without a doctor.
- The foundation discovered through a Facebook post from another hospital foundation that there are provincial funds available to help pay for a doctor's relocation. This information should have been shared by the province directly to all hospital foundations.

COUNCILLOR ARMSTRONG UPDATE

J-Class Road List

The County has the J-Class road list ready for 2022/23 paving and have proposed supporting Victoria Dr, Varner St, George St, Elm St and Old French Rd (from Katelyn St to CS).

Budget

The County will be starting their budget process soon and are working with the Fire Departments.

Westwood St Flooding

Department of Public Works (DPW) operations supervisor for Kings West Sergey Averin and Area Manager Richard Lloyd are looking at a capital solution for next year regarding the flooding on Westwood St. Clerk asked that the County actively request more money from the province for DPW budget. Councillor Armstrong will talk to County Engineer Scott Quinn regarding a possible catch basin for west side of Westwood St.

Housing Shortage

County Council and CAO met with new Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Lohr emphasizing that the County would need help from the province for infrastructure involved with new housing developments.

State of Low-Income Housing

Councillor Armstrong will gather more information before bringing complaint to Minister Lohr of the state of low-income housing in some areas.

Storage Units

The County held an online public information session regarding the proposed storage building on Main St. by Riley Peckford. The proposed building does not need to be rezoned.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the September 9, 2021 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Fowler asked for any business arising from the minutes of September 9, 2021.

Clerk has not yet contacted Irving to ask permission to beautify the south end of their parking lot.

The new siding for the library has not yet arrived.

Clerk met with Scott Quinn who confirmed the County is open to the idea of Kingston connecting to their Greenwood Water Utility. Clerk will reach out to the County and ask what the MOU would look like and where we go from here.

Clerk did advise 14 Wing that the Commission agreed to allow them to trim or remove trees on Village property that are hazardous to flight safety.

Commissioner West found the event for National Truth and Reconciliation Day to be very meaningful.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS – See Full Reports

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Commission asked if a WiFi camera could be installed at the bandstand to curb vandalism. Clerk advised a WiFi camera is an option and the estimated cost would be \$1,500.

Commission commended Public Works staff for doing an excellent job of clearing the undergrowth in the wooded area of Centennial Park behind the bandstand.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Commission agreed the Santa Comes to Kingston event might have to be limited to Santa riding around the Village with the fire department due to Covid-19 regulations. A postcard mail-out could provide the information to all residents.

Rec staff received approval to use a section of Paragon Golf Course for fireworks on New Years Eve. Commission agreed to ask the Village of Greenwood if they would offer support for the fireworks.

Commissioner West participated in the garbage pickup on the trail, which was a good initiative but was not well attended. The number of volunteers may grow as the event gains momentum.

Various groups using the Rec Hut are not always locking up the bathrooms after they leave for the evening.

Commissioner West will deliver Christmas cards to the businesses again this year.

EMILY HARRIS REPORT – See Full Report

Commission love the idea of a haunted night in the wooded area behind the bandstand.

Emily will be visiting businesses again to see if anyone was willing to spearhead a collaborative business group. It would be beneficial to the community and would foster buying local but if there is no interest from someone to take the lead, then a business group may not work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee – Commissioner Bishop reported a survey was created where, from October 12 to November 12, the committee is inviting residents to share their feedback on accessibility in the Municipality and Villages to identify what works, what doesn't and how things can be improved. The information will be used to help shape the creation of an Accessibility Plan for the County and Villages. The plan is due to be completed by April 1, 2022. Clerk will share survey with Commission. There will also be in-person engagement activities from October 24 – 27.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON APPOINT MICHAEL KEITH AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE VILLAGE OF CORNWALLIS SQUARE ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A PERIOD OF 1 YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 21, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON APPOINT QUENTIN HILL AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF A 3-YEAR TERM, WHICH COMMENCED JUNE 1, 2021. MOTION CARRIED.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Public Works Building

Engineering staff are working on the existing building design for the new property. The land is to be prepared for construction.

J-Class Roads

The Village received correspondence from the County regarding the priority list for next year's J-Class road paving. The Village has prioritized Victoria Dr, Varner St, George

St, Elm St and Old French Rd (from Katelyn St to chip seal) and the County has proposed supporting this selection.

Westwood St Flooding

There have been complaints from the public regarding the flooding on Westwood St. The area manager with the Department of Public Works is looking into a solution.

Tim Hortons Intersection

Chair has received complaints of people obstructing traffic waiting to enter the Tim Hortons drive-through which is so close to a busy 3-way intersection. The traffic studies by the Department of Public Works (DPW) have determined the intersection does not warrant a full set of traffic lights. Commission agreed to have staff send a letter to the Minister of Public Works asking for solution to this safety issue and copy MLA Chris Palmer, the Kingston RCMP and the Tim Hortons owner. One solution might be for DPW to purchase privately owned King St in order to have a secondary turning lane.

November Commission Meeting

Commission agreed to hold the next commission meeting on Thursday, November 4th since November 11th is a holiday.

Christmas Dinner

The Commission agreed to go with staff's choice of a restaurant in Kingston.

Leaf/Brush Bins

The bins will go out within the next 2 weeks.

Tree Planting

Clerk advised that the planning of the green space at Oakhurst Subdivision is on hold, including planting trees. Commission did agree to have four hardwood trees planted on the west side of the Elm/Westwood St playground for added shade.

Finance Report – See full report

CORRESPONDENCE:

In a letter to John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, New NS Premier Tim Houston outlined the mandate to activate solutions and a list of responsibilities. The letter was copied to the Village.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner West advised that, at the Association of NS Villages annual conference in September, there was an offer by Jason Haughn, municipal affairs advisor, to conduct a free strategic planning session with the Commission. Commission agreed to table this item.

In Camera Discussion

Commission began in-camera session at 9:15pm.

In-camera session ended at 9:36pm.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BEARDSLEY AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:37PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER