



Village of Kingston
655 Main Street PO Box 254
Kingston NS B0P 1R0

ph 902 765-2800
fx 902 765-0807

August 11, 2022

Commissioner W. Fowler
Commissioner M. West
Commissioner M. Bishop
Commissioner N. Larder
Commissioner L. Avery

Dear Commissioner Members:

Attached for your review is the Agenda for the regular Village meeting scheduled to take place at 7:00pm on Thursday, August 11, 2022.



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REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING August 11, 2022

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes of Meeting held July 14, 2022
2. Business Arising from the Minutes
3. Consent to Agenda Items
4. Departmental Reports
 - i. Wastewater
 - ii. Public Works
 - iii. Recreation
 - iv. Community Development
5. Committee Reports
 - i. STEERFEST
 - ii. JAAC - Joint Accessibility Advisory
 - iii. Kingston Area Advisory
 - iv. Audit Committee
 - v. Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation
 - vi. ANSV - Association of Nova Scotia Villages
6. Clerk's Report
 - i. Commissioner Committee Appointments
7. Correspondence
8. In-Camera Discussion
9. Adjournment



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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 21, 2022

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler – Chair
Mike Bishop – Vice Chair
Muriel West
Neil Larder – Late Arrival
Lauren Avery - Absent

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer

OPENING

Chair Fowler called the Regular Session Zoom meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the June 9, 2022 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Fowler asked for any business arising from the minutes of June 9, 2022.

Maple & Main Intersection/Markland Rd

Clerk will arrange to speak to new area manager at the NS Department of Public Works to discuss the intersection of Maple and Main Street and the Markland Road issue.

Victoria Drive Extension

County Engineer Scott Quinn sent correspondence from the NS Department of Public Works (NSDPW), which confirmed that they are asking for a deferral of the repair work to Victoria Drive extension to a later date.

Westwood St Flooding

Commission agreed to have Clerk look into getting a quote to have the repair work done on Westwood St and then seek approval and reimbursement from NSDPW. The repair would consist of putting in a catch basin on the west side and attaching the pipes.

Rec Hut Roof Damage

Clerk confirmed the insurance company is looking into getting the claim approved for the roof storm damage that occurred 2 years ago.

Disc Golf

There has been no progress on this item due to staff being busy with STEERFEST. Commissioner West would rather see a splash pad built if cost is similar to disc golf as it might appeal to more people.

West Kings Grad

There were no volunteers to create and send a high school graduate presentation this year to have scrolling on the LED sign.

Bridge St Letter of Support

The County asked that the letter of support be sent to the province rather than the County regarding the Village of Greenwood's request to have Bridge St more accessible. The street needs to be widened to accommodate a bike path and a wider sidewalk on the two bridges.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for any additions to the agenda.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Security System

Due to the break-in at the sewer treatment plant, the Commission agreed at budget time to look at adding more cameras/Wi-Fi closer to Stronach Park, which would also give park users free Wi-Fi.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

East Main Sidewalk Design

Clerk just received the design and staff will review. There will not be any curbing with this design due to NSDPW requirements. It will be road, shoulder, ditch, sidewalk and then a slope down onto properties.

RECREATION – See Full Report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEERFEST

- The weather for the event was perfect and overall it was a successful day.

- The method of food tickets sales may have to change.
- The lack of a steer on a spit did not pose a problem; the roasts were chopped up for burger bits, which made the work a lot easier.
- St. John Ambulance staff did not show up.
- The strong man competitors cancelled due to Covid, which saved some money.
- Commission agreed to send an appreciation certificate to Steer BBQ Chair Brad Beardsley and MC Riley Peckford. A thank you letter should also be sent to all entities that offered support.
- Since the parade finished early, the dignitaries were called up on stage earlier than expected and two members of 14 Wing missed the opening ceremony.
- Commission thanked Commissioner West for all of her organization efforts.
- There should be a follow-up meeting in the fall to discuss ideas for next year.
- Community Development staff Emily Harris put out a survey to get feedback from the public.
- Commission thanked staff who volunteered at the event.
- Chair apologized for missing the event but he had a commitment out of the country.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

The July meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be Sept. 14th.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON WRITE A LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF THE NS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT'S STAFF WORK WITH THE VILLAGES AND MUNICIPALITY IN REMOVING MOBILITY BARRIERS IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, SUCH AS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SIDEWALKS AND BRIDGES (WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN COLLECTIVELY ACHIEVE THE SHARED OBJECTIVE OF BEING ACCESSIBLE BY 2030). MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER LARDER THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON APPOINT BEN BROWN AS A CITIZEN MEMBER ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM RUNNING FROM JULY 5, 2022 TO MAY 31, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER WEST THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON APPOINT ALAN PRICE AS A CITIZEN MEMBER REPRESENTING THE WESTERN REGION ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM RUNNING FROM JULY 5, 2022 TO MAY 31, 2023. MOTION CARRIED.

Kingston Audit Committee

Chris Fowler would like to set up a meeting.

Clerk advised that next year's financial statements have to show asset retirement amounts due to new accounting regulations in 2018. Clerk has informed the Village auditor.

Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation

Commissioner West reported a new doctor has been signed up to work at the 14 Wing Greenwood clinic. The committee is optimistic that there will be another two family doctors in the near future. As opposed to Annapolis County, Kings County does not offer incentives to new doctors to help with the cost of housing.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)/UNSFM Survey

Commission discussed the recent UNSFM membership survey and the responses from the County of Kings. Their answers indicated they are looking to reshape the municipal landscape in NS and create regional municipalities with appropriate scale. They also feel that villages and towns should be consolidated with districts and counties to eliminate the duplication of services and governance for ratepayers. These survey results will go back to the province and the province may agree with them, which could result in changes to the Municipal Government Act. A suggestion was made to collaborate with the ANSV regarding the survey. After a discussion, Commission agreed to let the County know they disagree that villages duplicate services and that actually towns have more duplication of services. Commission asked Clerk to contact county staff to express disappointment with the broad stroke comments about villages and ask if strong changes could be made to the survey answers before Tuesday's council meeting. Clerk will copy to the Village of Aylesford and keep commission updated.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Public Works Building

Commissioner Larder has been visiting the site and noted the work is progressing well. The Styrofoam/cement structure will have three cement pours; one 4.5' level has been poured so far.

Festival and Community Events Funding Applications

The local autism chapter sent in two funding applications, one for Walk Your Way Autism and one for Autos for Autism. The Commission approved \$500 for each event but the Walk Your Way event is taking place in Berwick. After a discussion, Commission agreed to leave the \$500 for each event since the proceeds would benefit this area as well.

Dangerous and Unsightly – Marshall Rd

Village staff advised the County that a resident is upset about the unsightliness of a property on Marshall Rd and was told that a formal complaint is necessary from the resident. Clerk will advise resident.

Commissioner Training

Training may be available in August.

Sewer Treatment Plant Break in

The claims adjuster has not been in touch since the first contact. He has the list of items that were stolen as well as additional items that were later discovered missing.

Library/Village Office Parking Lot

The library parking lot has been repaved. The office received a quote of \$4,300 to seal the rest of the parking lot. The lines will also have to be repainted. Commission agreed to have the parking lot sealed.

ICIP Library Funding

The Village has received the full amount of the ICIP funding: \$300,000 from the Province and \$200,000 from the Federal Government.

NSFM Survey

Full details are available on the County of Kings' website under Committee of the Whole Meeting July 19, 2022.

DISCUSSION:

East Main Sidewalk

Once there is an approved design by the Commission and staff, it will go out to tender. Able Engineering will be creating the tender.

Irving Parking Lot

Staff have reached out to graphic designer Angie Myers to provide a concept drawing.

Roof Hound Brewing Co Patio

Their sidewalk patio has to allow enough room (5') for Village tractors to get through. Towns like Wolfville control their own roads and have different rules that allow patios to extend out to the curb.

Speed Sign

Commission suggested putting the speed sign on Bridge St.

Heat Pumps in Storage

Commission suggested putting one of the heat pumps that came from the library renovation into the Rec Hut for air conditioning and the other could go in the old Visitor Information Centre for heating.

Potential Pride Event for 2023

Commission agreed to support a gathering at Centennial Park but having another parade so close to the Kingston Steer BBQ parade might be too much.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:49PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Danny Lundrigan, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **August 11, 2022**
Re: **Environmental Services Report**

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Assessment

Dillon Consulting has completed WWTP assessment and staff has read the report and made some notes to discuss in upcoming meeting with Dillon. Assessment covered all aspects of the treatment plant from structural, mechanical, hydraulic load and OH&S. Approximate budget numbers for the different areas of the plant were at end of report.

West Main ST Development/Force Main Installation

August 9th Four-inch force main sewer line was installed for Embrook Development, West Main St. The 400 feet of pipe was directionally drilled and connected to the Village of Kingston's sanitary manhole on the south shoulder of Main St. Bret Minor with Evangeline Excavating was the sub-contractor installing pipe and Eric Morse engineer was onsite to confirm depth design and GPS locate of pipe under ground. Information will be documented and recorded on As-Built drawing.

Markland Rd/Bridge St Sewer Easement Profile Drawings

Staff had onsite meeting with Eric Morse about creating sewer profile for sewer easements located behind homes on both Markland Rd and Bridge St. There is no sewer profile of this easement line in the Village's sewer drawings. This is something staff has been working toward the last five years, to have engineered drawings of old sewer easement lines to go on file. Morse Engineering will also include line that services NSP and Superstore gas bar that hooks onto easement lines. George St. and Pleasant St. will also have invert elevations taken at the same time to show how system ties together.

Ongoing Daily Maintenance

Daily duties at the treatment plant are ongoing, including washing down of tanks and UV Channel, cleaning out sludge pumps when needed, recording daily flows, wasting of sludge, sludge disposal, and monthly sampling of the final effluent. Washing down of the clarifier and cleaning UV bulbs and UV channel twice a week or as needed.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Danny Lundrigan, Public Works Supervisor**
Date: **August 11, 2022**
Re: **Public Works Report**

Library Parking Lot Line Painting

Staff are currently seeking prices for painting parking lot lines to be painted on the recently new asphalt library parking lot. Library patrons need direction of where to park and how close to building. Staff have noticed how far out from building people are parking and makes it hard for people trying to access back parking lot.

Basketball Court Fence Extension

Aug 4th Maritime Fence arrived on job site at the basketball court on Elm St. Old 6 ft. fence was removed and extensions were installed on existing post to support ten-foot high chain link fence. Six-foot sections of fence were rolled up and stored with other sections of chain link fence removed over the years.

Westwood St. Flooding

Public Works staff investigated flood zone area by excavating shoulder of the west side of street directly across from curbside catch basin on east side of street. Staff were trying to locate pipe that crosses under the road from catch basin. Staff did not find pipe under shoulder of road, but undermined asphalt and found abandoned catch basin that had been covered over for years. Provincial Public Works Transportation showed up for site visit and staff explained findings. Transportation department will be scheduling job crew to cut road, expose top of catch basin and solve flooding issue.

Seasonal Staff Departure

July 15th Seasonal staff gave two weeks notice and last day was July 29th. Current staff will pick up the slack instead of hiring another seasonal staff this late in the year. This was the third year for second seasonal staff position and will be reviewed by staff moving forward.

Ongoing Maintenance / Extreme Dry Conditions

With dry hot weather persisting over the last month, staff have been very busy trying to keep all the flowers watered. Staff have been in on weekends watering hanging baskets and Village entrance planters. Mowing has let up a bit but trimming is ongoing and mower is currently waiting on parts. Ball fields are being dragged and upper Ravenwood field is lined for game every Thursday by Public Works staff.

Duck pond at Stronach Park is extremely low and staff may shut off fountains to avoid drawing silt up from bottom.

Upcoming Recreation Projects

Public Works staff informed Recreation Coordinator that PVC retainer wall sections were under-ordered for replacing rotten wood frame at playground in Forest Brook Park subdivision. More have been ordered and should be here in March 2023. In conversation with Rec Coordinator, Public Works staff will replace 3 of the 4 existing retainer wall timbers (the most rotten sections). In addition, staff will join the two separate playground apparatus (swing set & slide/climbers), which will improve clearances for landing area at bottom of slide.

Staff have also begun preparing area on Fitness Trail for new station apparatus. Trees will also need to be removed and some fill hauled in to prepare area for station installation. Old chin-up bars have also been removed to make room for new station.

Vandalism / Flower Pots/Library Table & Chairs

There has been some vandalism in downtown core area with regard to flipping over flower baskets, pulling flowers out of ground beds and tipping over compost bins. A small set of chairs and a table left outside by Library staff was used to smash whiskey barrel planters in front of Library damaging stems of big Calla Lilies. Table and chairs were broken in process.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Elizabeth Wright, Recreation Coordinator**

Date: **August 11, 2022**

Re: **Recreation Report**

Summer Day Camp

- Day Camp is running well. Counsellors get along and work well together.
- Few cancellations over the summer, with some spots not fully replaced; as those on waitlist found camp openings elsewhere. Was able to fill most spots each week, keeping average around 19-20 kids per week.
- Eliminated the need to arrange transportation for trips to Yogi Bear's Jellystone Campground and Greenwood Pool by arranging full day events at each place. Parents dropped off and picked up their children at the locations instead of the Rec Hut.
- Multiple trips included visits to the fire hall, library, 7Arts, Try-It sessions of lacrosse and tennis, Stronach Park, and CARP.
- Had a very nice free ice cream treat from Dairy Queen. One of the kid's parents (owner of Dairy Queen) offered for us to stop by for free treats. This was much appreciated during a very hot day.
- Still looking forward to last visit from Pirates and a trip to the zoo.
- August 22nd-26th there is no day camp. Counsellors will be cleaning/organizing the Rec Hut, assisting with the Seniors Summer Social and hosting pop-up and plays. Hoping to have a scavenger hunt, and a possible Kingsley hide and seek at Stronach Park.

Kings County- Community Recreation Programming Assistance Grant (CRAF)

- Received the final money for the 2020/2021 Grant (\$6,498.02).
- Received the new amount for the 2021/2022 request. It changed from \$5,250.00 to \$4,988.
 - o Awaiting details for what the money will be used for.

Kings County – Community Parks, Trails & Playground Maintenance Grant – (CPDP grant)

- Old wood play structure at Stronach Park has been removed to make room for the new climber.
- Basketball fence height increase has been completed.

Active Communities Fund

- Finished funding application for Facility Use at the Credit Union Centre for In-Service, holiday and sensory skating.
- Also included request to purchase more family lawn games to add to our equipment loan program.
 - o Will look into possibly joining with the library to make the equipment available after hours, or extending hours once a week to make available for those who

cannot come in during the day. This will help make the equipment more accessible to all.

Fitness Classes

- Made to Move has finished, led by Karly Stefko. Feedback from participants has been positive, and looking to start again in September.
- Another instructor, Sandy, is interested in starting an evening program in the fall as well, and currently completing training.
- Senior's fitness class planning to start on September 13. Will continue with the 3 days; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00am-11:00am. Instructors will remain the same; Karen and Helen.
 - o This will be at the Fire Hall again.
 - o The price will increase from \$4 - \$5 for the drop in fee.
 - o For a 10 pass card: \$40.
 - o Looking to start a 20 pass card as there are some regulars who frequently go. A 20 pass card would be \$80.

Seniors Summer Social 2pm – 5:30pm

- Seniors Summer Social will be held at the Lions Hall on Wednesday, August 24th starting at 2:00pm.
- Bob Deveau will provide entertainment, there will be bingo games and supper served at 4:30pm. Have reached out to community organizations for gift card contributions for prizes and received a good response.
- Ordered food and planning for a door prize draw as well.
- Will have a survey for the seniors to complete at this event, to gauge interest and get ideas of what they want to do and see in the community.
- Invited MLA Chris Palmer and Village Commission to help during the event. Will have summer students there to help as well.

AKHK Active Kids Healthy Kids

- Missed last meeting, but application is being worked on by committee members for the 2022/2023 Recreation Community Development Grant.

Valley Recreation

- Recreation staff will be assisting in the planning and development of the Recreation Nova Scotia Conference in October, 2023.

Terry Fox Run

- Terry Fox Community Run will be on Sunday, September 18th, registration at 12:00pm, and event from 1:00-3:00pm starting in the GW Sampson parking lot.
- Recreation Coordinator has gathered volunteers to assist in planning and running the event day of.

Other

- Field use over the summer has been consistent. Looking at changing the format to use the fields and the Rec Hut space, where users would have to put down a deposit of \$100 (Rec Hut- \$200), which we will then refund after use, if all in good condition.
- Looking into re-keying the locks for the Rec Hut, bathrooms and outdoor equipment storage areas. This will help re-set and track and manage who has keys. Recreation

Coordinator has spoken with some individuals who have had keys for years without returning.

- Sent e-mail request to inquire more about disc golf field up in Ravenwood. Have yet to hear back, but will continue to reach out to get a cost estimate.
- Kings County meeting will be held in the boardroom on August 19th at 10:00am.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Emily Harris**
Date: **August 11, 2022**
Re: **Community Development Report**

Outdoor Concert Series

The August lineup for the outdoor concert series has begun. The August 3rd concert featuring Ruth Manning and the Prospectors had the biggest crowd of the summer thus far, with approximately 70-80 cars. The concert series will wrap up on Sunday, August 28th.

Outdoor Movies

Checking with other recreation departments to see who they use for copyright licensing and how they run their movie events. Planning to show the movie 'Cars' on Friday, August 26th. The movie will start sometime between 8:30pm and 9pm and the Village will supply popcorn for attendees. For those who arrive early, 2 sets of washer toss will be available.

Emancipation Day Event

A free West African Drumming Workshop was held on August 5th at Centennial Park, in support of Emancipation Day. The Village partnered with Kings County Rec, who supported with funding. Spots in the workshop were held for members of the African Diaspora. There were 20 spots available for the hour-long session; 7 people in total signed up and participated.

Kingston Walk Group

The number of participants signed up for the walking group continues to grow. There are 34 people currently, with an average of 8-10 taking part in the walks. The group meets at Clairmont Park every Tuesday morning at 10am, weather permitting. Unsure if program will continue year round or pause during the winter months. A volunteer will soon offer a new walk time, Wednesdays 12:45-1:15pm.

Kingston Autism Centre Outdoor Movie

The Annapolis Valley Autism Centre would like to hold an outdoor movie behind the Credit Union Centre. September 10th is the date they would like, Centennial Park is booked for a wedding and baseball runs until 7:30pm. Coordinating a possible time that could work. The Autism Centre inquired about support from the Village.



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REPORT TO VILLAGE COMMISSION

From: **Mike McCleave, Clerk/Treasurer**
Date: **August 11, 2022**
Re: **Clerk Report**

NSFM Survey - County Response and more

The Villages were made aware of a response from the County of Kings to a survey created by the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). Their response has worried the Village of Kingston along with the other 6 Villages in Kings County. In a nutshell, the County would prefer that there were no other government entities within Kings County and they would govern the whole geographic region directly. The loss of town and village governments would be seriously detrimental to the voice of the people along would possibly impact current services. The Villages and the Association of Nova Scotia Villages will be providing a formal response to those involved. This includes the County of Kings, SERMGAR Committee (Service Exchange Renegotiation and MGA Review), the NSFM, and the Province of Nova Scotia. The singling out of villages seems to be coming directly from the NSFM.

PW Building

The final concrete pour for the "ICF" walls should be completed Thursday, August 11.

Committee Members

Village committee member appointments (commissioner and public) should be finalized tonight. Committees are:

Steer BBQ/FEST	- (Discuss and formalize committee)
JAAC - Joint Accessibility Advisory	- Commissioner (Mike Bishop - 1yr)
Kingston Area Advisory	- Chair, 2x Comms, 3 Public, County Counc.
Audit Committee	- Chair, Commissioner, Public Member
Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation	- Public member (Kelly Hutton)
ANSV - Assoc. of Nova Scotia Villages	- Commissioner / Clerk

Motions

That the Village of Kingston support and sign the attached letter to John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, along with copies to Mayor Peter Muttart, Municipality of Kings; Board of Directors, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities; Hon. Keith Irving, MLA Kings South, and Chris Palmer, MLA Kings West.

Commissioner Training

Jason Haughn, our Municipal Advisor, will be at our office to provide training to available Commissioners on August 26th at 2pm.

Capital Projects

Greenwood Rd Sewer Extension - Low bid was approx. \$228,000. Commission deferred project to a future year due to cost.

Asset Management (GIS Survey) - Village was looking to use summer students from County for project (to reduce costs). I will have to have more discussion with County to work on an agreement for future years.

New Laterals and Pumps - Several pumps need repair and Embrook Development lateral is being installed this week.

Main Street Sidewalk Renewal - Work should be starting this month.

East Main Street Sidewalk (design and construction) - Drawings should be completed and approved this month. Will go out to tender in the fall possibly.

Village Office Exterior - Clerk would like to defer to next year. Wondering if windows should be made smaller on front of building, but how to make outside siding match smaller windows.

PW Building Paving - Must wait for construction to be completed. May need to defer to next fiscal year.

Irving Parking Lot Beautification - reached out to local person for design. They have been busy, but will reach out to them again.

Central Water - Village has applied for ICIP funding to construct first phase of central water for the Village.

Environmental Health	Budget	Tender w / HST portion	YTD Actual	Status
Greenwood Road Sewer Extension	100,000	deferred	n/a	n/a
Asset Management (GIS Survey)	10,000	n/a		
New Laterals and Pumps	20,000	n/a		
Main Street Sidewalk Renewal	35,000	26,444		
East Main Street Sidewalk	1,200,000	Design Phase		
Village Office Exterior Repairs	7,000	n/a		
Library Parking Lot Paving	50,000	40,093	42,695	Z
PW Building Lot Paving	60,000			
Irving Parking Lot Beautification	20,000	Design Phase		
Central Water	50,000	ICIP Appl		
Total	1,552,000			

T - Tendering Process
C - Work started / Construction
Z - Finished

August 9, 2022

Hon. John Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
14th Floor North, Maritime Centre
1505 Barrington Street
P.O. Box 216
Halifax, NS
B3J 2M4

Dear Minister Lohr,

RE: Village Consolidation – SERMGAR Survey

We, the undersigned Village Chairpersons, are writing to you on behalf of the seven villages in Kings County. We were shocked to learn of recent deliberations, by the Municipality of Kings, over the prospect of village consolidation. It was not long ago that considerable effort was undertaken by the Nova Scotia villages to defend our right to exist as incorporated entities, against the threat of forced consolidation. If our collective reaction to these deliberations and the tone of this letter seems pessimistic, it is only because the question of consolidation was so recently decided.

We recognize that this issue is not being raised by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing or by the Province of Nova Scotia, rather through the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM). Specifically, through the Service Exchange Renegotiation and Municipal Government Act Review (SERMGAR) survey issued to municipalities across Nova Scotia.

It is important to note that the NSFM does not recognize villages, and consequently we were not asked to respond to this survey or provide any feedback. It is on this point in particular the villages are so concerned. How can an organization that chooses not to recognize villages as an important part of local government and service delivery, begin to contemplate and make representations for the role of villages in the future? Hopefully it is clear to everyone involved with the MGA review that the NSFM survey does not represent meaningful consultation or a village perspective.

Regarding the Municipality of Kings' specific response to the SERMGAR survey, we'd like to take the opportunity to rebut the points they have raised in their public meetings. In lumping villages in with towns and districts, the Municipality of Kings is misrepresenting the financial status of villages. The average village in Nova Scotia is financially sound, maintaining important infrastructure, creating programming and recreational opportunities. Villages are a value-added entity that provide services that the Municipality of Kings does not or will not provide to its residents. Villages

were incorporated for this very reason, to bring services such as potable water, wastewater services, or rural programming, to communities who otherwise were left without.

Certainly, there are always possibilities to create efficiencies for taxpayers through mechanisms such as shared services. The villages are not opposed to collaboration. In many ways the villages actively work with each other, districts, counties, and our neighbouring towns to provide high quality services at the best possible value.

We hope that the takeaway from this letter is that the villages must be consulted when planning for the future of municipal government. Whether it is regarding consolidation or the MGA review, we have legitimate considerations that represent the needs and desires of our local communities. We recognize the importance of the MGA review and look forward to sharing the village perspective through that process. We greatly encourage your department and the provincial government in general to look to the Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV) for real consultation when making decisions that impact Villages.

We look forward to working with your department staff going forward in shaping the future of villages in Nova Scotia for years to come.

Respectfully,

John DeCoste, Acting Commission Chair
Village of Aylesford

Wayne Fowler, Commission Chair
Village of Kingston

Angela Cruickshank, Commission Chair
Village of Canning

Colin Best, Commission Chair
Village of Cornwallis Square

James Redmond, Commissioner
Village of New Minas

Brian Banks, Commission Chair
Village of Greenwood

Lewis Benedict, Commission Chair
Village of Port Williams

cc.

Mayor Peter Muttart, Municipality of Kings

Board of Directors, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

Hon. Keith Irving, MLA Kings South

Chris Palmer, MLA Kings West

1 August 2022

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Middleton, I am pleased to let you know that your community will be receiving tulip bulbs from our Club. This year the Rotary Club of Middleton is giving each town and village in our catchment area four boxes of tulips. There are 25 bulbs in each box.

Rotary International is very aware of our environment and the need to improve it through the work of Rotary Clubs around the world. This task includes the beautification of our surroundings.

One of our major Rotary Projects is the End Polio Now 'Tulip Bulb Campaign'. This campaign raises millions of dollars to end polio worldwide. We are very close to fulfilling this objective. The Rotary Club of Middleton is part of this Rotary International project and, together with other Rotary Clubs in our District, we participate in this fundraising tulip campaign.

These particular tulip bulbs were developed in Holland specifically for Rotary's 'End Polio Now' Program and Vesey Seeds in PEI coordinates the orders and delivery of the bulbs to the respective Rotary coordinators.

As you know, serving the community is extremely important to us and we demonstrate our commitment to our local communities through sponsorships and support of various projects throughout the Annapolis Royal to Aylesford area.

Once we receive our Club's order your bulbs will be delivered by me in late September 2022 for planting, which means that they will bloom in the spring of 2023.

We hope this small step in furthering the beautification of your community's surroundings will be welcomed by the residents. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 902 840 1101.

In Rotary service,



Sharon Hutton

Club 'End Polio Now' Tulip Bulb Campaign Coordinator

