



Village of Kingston
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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2022

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler – Chair
Mike Bishop – Vice Chair
Muriel West
Neil Larder
Lauren Avery

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Tim Martell
Martha Armstrong – Councillor, District 4, Municipality of the County of Kings

OPENING

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

Tim Martell – Bridge St Crosswalk Request

Mr. Martell attended the meeting on behalf of his elderly father who resides on the east side of Bridge St. He asked if the Commission could work toward getting a crosswalk at the intersection of Bridge St and Windsor St. due to the increase in traffic over the years. It has become a real safety issue for pedestrians trying to cross, either to access the mail kiosk on Windsor St., or after exiting public transit on the east side of Bridge St.

Chair informed Mr. Martell that the NS Department of Public Works would have final approval and that their decision would involve traffic studies etc. This could take a few years since the RRFB type crosswalk at Maple and Main took 3.5 years to complete. Commission will contact provincial MLA Chris Palmer to have him call Mr. Martell. Commission also agreed to send a letter to the County with the request.

Councillor Armstrong - County Update

- Council approved \$800,000 in gas tax for the Village of Kingston.
- Nova Scotia Housing Authority gave a presentation to County Council. Council expressed concerns of the state of disrepair, appearance and lack of inspections for housing units in the Village and throughout the county. NS Housing clarified that their main goal is to maintain properties in “fair” condition. The properties belong to the province and the County has no authority to inspect under the

dangerous and unsightly premises bylaw. Since the province does not do inspections, some properties end up in very poor condition and have to be stripped to the studs and completely renovated. County provides an amount annually to Housing through a service agreement for upkeep on county properties. Since NS Housing does not provide a budget to the county, county has to calculate a 3 or 5-year rolling average. NS Housing also informed Council that the County still owes them \$63,000 but Council is not going to pay that amount and will continue to push back on this issue.

- County Planning Advisory Committee sent a letter to the federal government asking if they would consider divesting the lands at Clements Park (new PMQ's) in Greenwood and open it up to developers. This would require rezoning the land to R5 and would assist in relieving the present housing crisis. They received a letter back from the federal government saying they are considering it. Clerk asked if the Bible Baptist College land in Greenwood could be looked into for development. Councillor Armstrong agreed to look into it if more information is presented to her.
- NS Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) is gathering the information collected from the survey that was sent to all municipal units proposing to have a regional municipality and have towns/villages dissolved. The survey was completed by senior county staff only and was brought to council after it was completed. Councillor Armstrong did not vote for the county's response to the survey, as long as there was any reference to villages.
- Chair Fowler raised the point that if the County is against duplication of services, why then would they want the Village to look after its own central water system. If the grant from the federal government is approved for a water system, the Commission agreed that discussions regarding the administration of it needs to be looked at further.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the September 8, 2022 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Fowler asked for any business arising from the minutes of September 8, 2022.

New Windows for Office Building

Clerk is still waiting on a quote from South Shore Glass.

Meeting with NS Department of Public Works

The NS Department of Public Works cancelled the meeting due to illness. The meeting was to discuss a list of several items that have required their attention this year that have not yet been done.

Truth and Reconciliation Day

Commissioner West attended the event and stated it was a very good presentation with drumming and dancing.

Recycled Asphalt

Clerk has not yet reached out to see if there were any supplies of recycled asphalt for the last unpaved section of the old rail bed to Greenwood Rd.

Village Business Online Video

Commission agreed this was a good initiative to inform the public of village business.

Armstrong's Sewer Billing

Clerk has no update at this time.

Rotary Club Tulip Donation

The tulip delivery has been delayed but the Scouts group has volunteered to plant the bulbs in their flowerbed next to Avery's Farm Market to commemorate a special day for them.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for any additions to the agenda.

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) Tour

Commissioner Avery commended STP supervisor for providing an excellent tour, which helped to gain understanding of the terms mentioned at meetings.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Vandalism

The vandalism that took place at the arena ball diamond dugouts is very disappointing and more cameras may be required in the Village. Two of the vandals did try to clean the spray painted walls but the third person did not show up. The RCMP are supposed to contact the youth.

Leaf and Brush Bins

Leaf and brush bins are now out for public use behind the arena.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Disc Golf

Recreation staff will be meeting with the disc golf expert next week to get an idea of costs. Commissioner would like staff to find out if any trees would have to be removed.

Santa Comes to Kingston/New Years Eve Event

The fire hall is not available the first Friday in December to hold the Santa event. Commission agreed to hold the usual Santa Comes to Kingston event at the rink this year on the first Friday in December (Dec 2). There will also be a visit around the village by Santa and a fire truck on a separate date.

The small New Year's Eve committee folded this year and their efforts would have included canvassing local businesses to sponsor the event including the fireworks. Therefore, since there are some funds in the account, this year the New Year's Eve celebration will consist of fireworks only at an earlier time in the evening.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

2023 Summer Concert Proposal

Commission agreed they would like more information such as a tentative date and if it will be a separate event or part of the Steer BBQ.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ

- The Lions netted about \$5,000 and with less effort this year, which was satisfactory to them.
- The Legion raised \$3,000 and they were quite happy with that.
- Fire Hall raised \$1,000 with the breakfast.
- The committee is working on improvements for next year.
- St. John Ambulance did not show up that day.
- Robert McMaster agreed to work with Riley Peckford on fresh ideas such as a meat-smoking event.
- The total cost to the Village was \$7,700 to date.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

New terms of reference were sent to the Commission earlier for perusal.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER BISHOP AND COMMISSIONER LARDER TO ACCEPT THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON APPOINT DONALD NAUSS AS A CITIZEN MEMBER ON THE JOINT ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TWO-YEAR TERM. MOTION CARRIED.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee

N/A

Audit Committee

N/A

Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation – Dr. Recruitment

Commissioner West provided the Commission with a report of the last committee meeting. Annapolis County will be making an announcement soon regarding an incentive program to entice new healthcare professionals to purchase a home in Annapolis County. Their committee is hoping Kings County implements something similar. MLA Chris Palmer also set up a meeting with the committee and the Minister of Health, Michelle Thompson. On October 22nd, there is a big gala from 1pm to 4pm in Greenwood. Chair Fowler will attend.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

Clerk and Commissioner West attended the Annual General Meeting in Truro. One of the presentation topics was on social media, which included ways to make your village or town sound more exciting and positive. Commission agreed that the Village of Kingston's community development staff should reach out to that presenter for ideas.

ANSV received a letter from municipal affairs requesting to have a virtual meeting about the revamping of the Municipal Government Act regarding modernizing public notice requirements, providing a mechanism for villages to change their name and adding more purposes for villages to be able to sell or lease below market value. Commissioners are invited and encouraged to attend once a date is finalized.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Public Works Building

The rebar has all been tied, well drilling began today and they will pour the floor next week once they put the roof on to make it water tight. NS Power has completed the scoping and three easements need to be signed of on before power poles can be installed. Since the land purchase has yet to be completed, two of the three easements are to be signed off on by Parsons Investments and the third by the Legion and the Lions Club for the power lines and anchors. This could delay power by a month.

Property Tax Sales

Clerk sent tax sale notices to two property owners and another two properties were reported to their mortgage company. The number of properties in arrears is standard at this point.

Bridge St Crosswalk Request

The cost of an RRFB crosswalk would be approximately \$30,000. Gas tax could be used to pay two-thirds. Windsor St is one location option but the NS Department of Public Works could determine the best location on Bridge St.

Years of Service

The Village recognizes (every five years) staff for years of service:

Dan Lundrigan – 35 years

Janice Knickle – 25 years

Mike McCleave – 10 years

Fireworks

Commission agreed to spend \$5,000 on fireworks for New Years Eve and the Village of Greenwood will also contribute \$5,000.

LED Sign

A business has requested to advertise for employees on the LED sign. Commission agreed the sign is for non-profit organizations but the Village would be willing to advertise on social media.

Christmas Dinner

Commission decided on The Roof Hound as the location for Christmas dinner.

HVAC Preventative Maintenance

A company called Carmichael provided the lowest quote of \$1,920 to do bi-annual maintenance on the Village's heat pumps and air exchangers.

Capital Projects

East Main Sidewalk (design and construction) – The drawings are in final edits.

Village Office Exterior – Clerk is getting quotes to replace glass in old, inefficient windows with broken seals etc.

Irving Parking Lot Beautification - Clerk contacted local resident Michelle Moreau who is willing to help with ideas for a landscape plan. Commissioners Avery and West would like to sit in on the meeting with Michelle Moreau. The scope by NS Power could potentially be done for the other two lampposts before next spring. The Village may have to pay for a bus shelter if the county is not successful in getting grant money for our bus shelter.

Central Water - Village is waiting for results of the federal funding application for the first phase of central water.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Village is in a surplus position.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Request for Bench/Ashes

Regarding the request to spread ashes and erect a bench at the Duck Pond to commemorate the death of a loved one, Commission did not approve this particular request for a bench at Stronach Park.

Remembrance Day Invitation

Chair Fowler will attend the November 11th ceremony and banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion in Kingston.

Boundary Review County Meeting Oct 6

Since Kings County has seven villages, the Village of Kingston proposed that almost every district have one village. A village may have to be split and some might not have one in their district. Most councillors do not have a village in their district and may not understand the importance of villages. The next public engagement meeting is scheduled for October 20th where they will be bringing all the recommendations to the County to discuss.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE DRAFT A LETTER TO KINGS COUNTY PROPOSING CHANGING THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES SO THAT EACH DISTRICT, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, HAS AT LEAST A PORTION OF A VILLAGE IN IT. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSIONS:

MT Sidewalk Snow Removal Equipment

A mechanic from Saunders Equipment will stop in later to look at the issues with the MT6 and MT7 and make the necessary repairs. The MT7 power issues will have to wait until the first snowstorm.

New Boardroom Table

This item will have to be included in the next capital budget.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER AVERY AND COMMISSIONER WEST TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:09PM. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER