



Village of Kingston
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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022

COMMISSION:

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

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Chris Palmer – MLA, Kings West

OPENING

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

MLA Chris Palmer Update

- MLA spoke with Doug Pulsifer from the NS Department of Public Works who agreed to look into Kingston's request for a crosswalk at the intersection of Windsor St and Bridge St.
- MLA spent the last month at the legislature discussing issues such as inflation/affordability and the senior care grant.

Commission updated MLA on the following Village issues:

1. The County informed the Village that the province does not regularly inspect the condition of its low-income housing and therefore the housing units are unsightly and some end up in bad disrepair. Commission would like to see more accountability for the state of housing in the Province/County, and in particular on Lincoln St. in Kingston. MLA will look into this issue.
2. The entire Markland Road was to be paved by County/Province in 2021. They only paved to Bishop Ave leaving the rest in poor condition. The Commission would like to see the section in front of the Superstore either fixed up or decommissioned and grassed over and the rest of Markland Rd repaved. However, neither the Province nor the County are taking responsibility of the rest of Markland Rd.
3. The NS Department of Public Works (NSDPW) patched the east-turning lane last fall at Bridge St/Main St. That day there were issues at the asphalt plant and the patch job ended up a mess. NSDPW said they would fix it this year, but have not fixed it yet.

4. In order to have street sweeping done in the spring, (rather than in the fall) the Village has to hire it out and then be reimbursed by NSDPW, since they only have one sweeper to do the entire province.
5. Commission extended an invitation to MLA to attend the Santa Comes to Kingston event on Dec 2, 2022 from 6pm to 8pm.
6. New Years Eve event will consist of fireworks only, sponsored by the Villages of Kingston and Greenwood, and the County of Kings beginning at 7:30pm.
7. If the Village is successful in receiving a grant to start a water utility, the County should have ownership of it since they already have the management and employees in place.
8. Village proposed to County, during their boundary review, that they consider having at least one, or part of, a village in each district. This would help County have a better understanding of how villages work. The Municipal Government Act also needs to be amended to put villages on a more level playing field.
9. The Villages of Kingston and Greenwood have asked NSDPW to make the bridges on Bridge St more accessible.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the October 13, 2022 Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2022. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Chair Fowler asked for any business arising from the minutes of October 13, 2022.

New Windows for Office Building

Employee from South Shore Glass has been on vacation, will get quote once he returns.

Meeting with NS Department of Public Works

NS Department of Public Works has not yet set a new meeting date but they have fixed most of the items on the list the Village was going to discuss with them.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

One item was added to the agenda.

- Sewer charges for land at old Hopkins Home.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER AVERY THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ADDITION. MOTION CARRIED.
DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Sewer Treatment Plant

Clerk ordered treatment and collection study guides for wastewater staff to prepare for certification test. Commission discussed having a succession plan for an easier transition when employees decide to retire.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Leaf and Brush Bins

Leaf and brush bins will be available for another week after Monday. Next year there needs to be a more aggressive dumping schedule.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Disc Golf

Commission agreed to have staff apply for a grant for this recreation activity and suggested having a grand opening event when it is ready. A disc golf sign visible from Highway 101 may attract non-residents to the course.

Santa Comes to Kingston Event

Recreation staff will send out a task list for Commissioners attending the Santa Comes to Kingston event on Dec. 2nd at the Credit Union Centre.

Rec Hut Playground

Commission agreed the playground equipment did not need replacing at this time but agreed to add a piece that is more accessible.

Fitness Classes

Recreation staff will coordinate with instructors on a wish list of equipment for the classes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

Business Holiday Decorating Contest

Commission agreed to have staff visit businesses with a proposal to get involved in a decorating contest. The contest will be promoted on the LED sign and on social media. The voting would take place online or ballots could be brought into each store or Village Office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ

- Brad Beardsley will call a meeting in January to begin planning.
- Commission would want expense details if meat-smoking idea takes place.
- Plans to refine the beer tent.
- Possible plan to have someone local make a steer head with horns for parade prizes.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Mary Fox is chair of the committee again. Kathleen Purdy had to resign so the committee needs a new member. Commission was asked to let Mary know if they have an idea of who might be interested.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee

N/A

Audit Committee

N/A

Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation – Dr. Recruitment

Commissioner West reported the committee held a gala on October 22nd at 14 Wing Greenwood to welcome new doctors and nurses to the area. Annapolis County representatives attended and spoke about their incentive package to entice new doctors to the area.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

The Village of Kingston has had access to Property Valuation Services Corporation's (PVSC) site through the County of Kings. Then in 2021 the password was locked out and the explanation was that villages are not allowed to have access. Clerk also discovered that the Board of Directors is made up of mostly County CAOs. The Village should have access since ratepayers are already paying for this service through the County of Kings. The PVSC Act needs to be changed now that Villages need access to the information. Clerk was advised by Municipal Affairs to have the ANSV to bring this issue to DMAH through the ANSV. Clerk will contact other NS village clerks and then present the information to ANSV.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Property Tax Sales

Clerk sent tax sale notices to two property owners and one property owner has paid their arrears. The other property owner has not responded to the notice.

Village-County Meeting

Commission agreed to suggest the following items be added to the agenda: gas tax allocations, boundary review changes, support for villages and the NS Department of Public Works downloading services onto villages.

Irving Parking Lot Beautification

An initial meeting will take place with Michelle Moreau on November 14th.

Microsoft 365 Switchover

Training for staff will take place on November 23rd with a 'go live' date of November 28th.

J-Class Roads

There were some errors on the County's J-Class road listing for 2023. Clerk will report correct list next meeting.

Capital Projects

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

Village Office Exterior – Clerk is waiting for a window replacement quote from South Shore Glass.

Irving Parking Lot Beautification – Village is waiting to hear if the County was successful in getting a grant for new bus shelters, with one slated for Kingston.

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.

Added Agenda Item – Sewer Charges

The land that once held Hopkins Home has been charged a full sewer rate, even though the home was torn down years ago. It is up to the property owner to advise the Village/County of property changes for taxation purposes. The owners are requesting to be reimbursed for the overpaid amount. Village precedent is two years. Clerk will advise owner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Payment of Invoices by Regional Centres for Education

The Village received a letter stating the Department of Municipal Affairs/Housing and the Department of Education/Early Childhood Development are reviewing the charges municipalities and villages invoice Regional Centres for Education. Until a long-term approach is in place, Regional Centres for Education are to pay municipalities' outstanding invoices for charges such as fire and sewer, without interest charges.

Kingston Legion Remembrance Day Invitation

Chair Fowler and Commissioner Bishop will attend the November 11th ceremony.

14-Wing Greenwood Invitation

Chair Fowler will attend the Christmas reception at the Annapolis Mess on Friday, November 25th.

DISCUSSIONS:

Budget Items

Commission suggested the following possible items for next budget: salt shed, boardroom table, fence compound.

ADJOURNMENT

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER AVERY AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:58PM. MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER