



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

ph 902 765-2800
fx 902 765-0807

KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2024

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler
Mike Bishop
Muriel West
Neil Larder
Lauren Avery

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

OPENING

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

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the February 1, 2024, Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER WEST AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Letter of Support for Library Funding

MLA Chris Palmer is hoping to see more funding for the library.

Inflatable Bouncy Cow

The inflatable bouncy cow was sold by the seller in a group with other bounce castles and is no longer available.

EV Chargers

Kings County Councillor Armstrong advised the Chair that there may be funding for a charger for the Village of Kingston. Commissioner Larder priced the ones Bruce Auto Group purchased at a cost of \$60,000 each and another \$60,000 in maintenance agreement etc. It is not money making at \$1.50/kw received. Clerk will investigate more, including grants, after year-end.

Kicksleds

Commission agreed that, due to the weather this past winter and climate change, the winters are not predictable enough to warrant purchasing these sleds at this time.

Mural Project

Commission agreed with the idea of flowers for the mural on the west side of building on 565 Main St. Commissioner Avery will contact owner for input and has a list of artists to contact for quotes.

Resident Concerns

Clerk provided a detailed email response to resident Sean Roberts regarding his concerns but did not receive a reply.

Movie Night at Steer BBQ

Commission agreed to have staff contact a group of volunteers to run the movie night.

Christmas Lights

Village has not yet received any prices for permanent holiday LED lights.

Hwy 101 Village Signs

Commission agreed to investigate the possibility of getting permission from the artists to use either the steer art in the office or the steer art in the library for the highway 101 signs. A graphic file would have to be created and given to the NS Department of Public Works. There is a flat rate charge for each highway sign.

Splash Pad Funding

This item will be discussed during budget deliberations.

Alternate Kingsley

Staff has not yet found an alternate Kingsley statue to have for the parade.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for additions to the agenda. No additions.

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

Hemlock Trees Concern

Village received an email from a person with a concern of HWA eggs on the hemlock trees at Stronach Park. Staff Steve Mosher confirmed he had a plan in place to try and combat the problem. Many municipalities are experiencing the same problem and are trying to get on top of it.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

Work by Mid Valley Construction at KN3 lift station is close to being completed.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Items will be discussed during the capital budget meeting.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Heritage Day Skate

Commission agreed the free skate for Heritage Day was very popular and would like to see this become an annual event.

50+ Fitness Members

Instructor Karen Reid asked members of the 50+ fitness if they would like to donate food to the school breakfast program and the response was overwhelming.

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Commission would like to make sure staff have enough treats this year for those attending the event in Ravenwood.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

Kingston/Greenwood Business Meeting

Business community development is very important to the Commission, and they would like to see more being done involving REN to keep the momentum going. Commission commented that the details of the REN meeting were not on the Recreation report. Commission agreed to have staff organize another meeting with the business community to keep the momentum going.

Steer BBQ

- Commission would like to see entertainment booked soon before their calendars get booked up.
- Committee to find out who is organizing the parade this year.
- Commission would like to have staff advertise the Steer BBQ Golf Tournament soon.
- Suggestion was made to possibly have the 5 core businesspeople of the business group volunteer to run the movie night.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ

- Minutes were provided by Recreation staff Elizabeth Wright.
- More hot water is needed at the Rec Hut.
- The new Legion representative on the committee is Jason Gilbert, Trevor has stepped down from that position.
- Suggestion was made to possibly have the live music and beer tent over at Centennial Park to save the trouble of setting up the stage. This will be discussed at the next Steer BBQ meeting.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Commissioner Bishop attended the meeting last night. Representative can come out to each village to help with an accessibility report. There will be an audit tool for accessibility available soon. Suggestion was made to have the library book drop box moved to allow wheelchairs full access to the front door.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee (KAAC)

Committee agreed to support a four-plex build at 543 Windsor St by Scott Bishop to help with the housing crisis. There will be an upcoming meeting with the County of Kings.

Audit Committee

Committee meets every 6 months, and a meeting will be set up soon to review the financials.

Soldiers Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation – Dr. Recruitment Committee

Commissioner West provided the following highlights of the meeting:

- Committee has organized events for the new doctors and their families to attend including a skating event, an Evergreen Theatre show, an African cultural event and the Sunday air show this summer.
- Volunteer committee received another grant of \$100,000 to help fund their doctor recruitment and retention efforts.
- 19.8% of residents in this area are without a family doctor.
- Committee member Anne Crowell will be requesting that the Commission allow anti-racism banners to be put up around the Village, due to the many new doctors arriving from other countries.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

Some villages are concerned about the cost of hiring a full-time person; some do not see the benefits. If the association wants to be taken seriously, someone needs to be doing the legwork. Discussion took place to possibly subsidize an existing employee. At the next meeting Commission agreed to let them know that Kingston is still onboard with having a staff person.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Annapolis County Sewer

CBCL Engineering are conducting a study for Annapolis County. The study involves the possibility of Annapolis County expanding the Village's sewer treatment plant to accommodate homes at the eastern end of their county. The Village would only be dealing with the extra flow. Clerk met with CBCL and Annapolis County staff yesterday to discuss the possibility of extending the Village's sewer system to some Annapolis County homes.

NS Power – Sidewalk Power Poles

Bell Aliant has given NS Power everything they need so the Village is just waiting for NS Power to provide a quote. The Village is to pay that amount before NS Power will remove the poles from the sidewalk in East Kingston.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Nominations

Commissioner West announced that she will not be re-offering this year after 7½ years on the Commission. Commissioner Fowler will run again this year.

Leaf / Brush Bins

Spring is early this year, so the bins may have to be put out earlier in April.

Apple Blossom Festival

The Apple Blossom committee is no longer continuing with the princess competition. They now have a newly, reimagined youth component called "Passions that Bloom". This new youth competition of the Apple Blossom Festival encourages all Annapolis Valley Youth between the ages of 15 and 21 to apply. Youth are encouraged to contact the festival office for more information. The Village will be contributing \$500 toward the festival this year.

Years of Service

Commission agreed to present crossing guard Katherine Fredericks with a certificate and \$50 gift card for 25 years of service with the Village.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Planning Application

The Village received a planning application to rezone the property at 543 Windsor St. Discussed earlier.

Lions Banquet Invitation

Chair Fowler may possibly attend the Lions 63rd Annual Charter Night Banquet on April 13th.

Letter from Soldiers Memorial Hospital (SMH) Foundation

Village received a letter from the Chair of the Foundation announcing an information session regarding board restructuring to be held on March 18 at noon in the SMH Founders Room. They want to hold an interview process before choosing any board positions.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER