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KINGSTON VILLAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2024

COMMISSION:

Wayne Fowler
Mike Bishop
Maggie Travis
Neil Larder
Lauren Avery

Mike McCleave – Clerk/Treasurer
Janice Knickle – Administrative Assistant

OPENING

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

OATH OF OFFICE

Three nominations for Village commissioner were received by nomination day May 8th, Maggie Travis, Wayne Fowler, and Brad Beardsley. After the election process, Maggie Travis and Wayne Fowler were the successful candidates. New commissioner Maggie Travis affirmed her Oath of Office.

Chair Appointment

Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chair. Commissioner Larder nominated Commissioner Fowler for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Fowler accepted the nomination. As there were no further nominations:

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER AVERY THAT
WAYNE FOWLER BE RE-ELECTED CHAIR FOR THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Fowler assumed the role of meeting Chair.

Vice Chair Appointment

Chair Fowler called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Larder nominated Mike Bishop for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Bishop accepted the nomination. As there were no further nominations:

**ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER AVERY THAT
MIKE BISHOP BE APPOINTED VICE CHAIR FOR THE VILLAGE OF KINGSTON.
MOTION CARRIED.**

ANNAPOLIS VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY (AVRL) PRESENTATION

Julia Merrit, CEO of AVRL, presented a general update on the past year and library usage.

- There was a 5% increase in Wi-Fi usage, which shows there is a great need for this service.
- Their libraries have over 4,000 new members.
- They entered sharing material with the 7 other regions, resulting in a 20% usage increase. Annapolis Valley is the highest user of shared materials.
- Libraries are struggling to provide services under the current funding formula. There will be no impact on Kingston's library.
- Conducted studies on what modern libraries cost to run.
- Will be looking at municipalities for feedback in the fall (another meeting).
- Will be using reserves this year to make sure staffing is looked after.
- Staff are now unionized. They will be hiring casual and no full-time staff. Getting staff is challenging. Staff are split among the libraries based on population.
- Reached the budget limit of what libraries can do, while still trying to respond to trends which brings in new people.
- Province contributes 71% and the County provides 26% of funding.
- Letters to the MLA are always welcome requesting more funding.

Commission suggested trying to get funds from 14 Wing Greenwood for Kingston's library since they closed their library. CEO will investigate.

BLOMIDON NATURALIST SOCIETY PRESENTATION

Board member Alan Warner requested a letter of support regarding their proposal to have a wilderness area protected and presented the following:

- Proposing a wilderness protected area in the Chain Lakes/Gully Lake areas.
- These are the only significant tracts of undeveloped public lands in Kings County.
- It has unique waters, wetlands, and old forest.
- Advocating for nature conservation and to have protect 20% of the province by 2030 and 15% by 2026.
- Current land protection in Kings County is 4.5% compared to 13% in the province.
- Protected land presently is mostly in the Blomidon area.
- Kings County has lost 2% of its tree cover since 2000 and has recovered 4%.
- Areas are worth protecting for biodiversity, recreation, tourism, protection of endangered species, health & wellness.
- Met with Department of Natural Resources and there are no mining licenses in the area.
- The proposed protected areas would still allow ATVs and snowmobiles on existing trails.
- A public petition will be going to the legislature and there will be consultation with the public.

- Have received letters of support from Kings County, Town of Kentville and the Kings & Mid Valley ATV clubs.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chair asked for a review of the May 8, 2024, Regular Session meeting minutes.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER AVERY AND COMMISSIONER LARDER, THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2024, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mural Project

The artists presented the final round of mural images for the west side of 565 Main St. They will begin painting on July 2nd.

Hwy 101 Village Signs

The graphic artist and artist provided a group of images to choose from for the highway signs. Commission agreed on one but with a few changes.

Steer BBQ Movie Night

Commission asked for confirmation on which group will be running the movie night.

Annapolis County Sewer Extension Request

No update.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS FUNDING REQUESTS

1. Steer BBQ chairperson applied for \$500 to offset expenses for the highland games to be held on Sunday, July 14th.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER TRAVIS THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION APPROVE \$300 FOR THE HIGHLAND GAMES ON JULY 14TH. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Nova 7Arts applied for \$850 to hold art workshops at 7 Kingston Farmers Markets. After a discussion, staff will ask 7Arts to clearly define what the funding would be used for.

Business Group

Commission agreed there seems to be no traction by the businesses to form a business group.

CONSENT TO AGENDA ITEMS

Chair asked for any additions to the agenda. One addition was added regarding the Town Crier.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED WITH ADDITION. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Crier

Each time a new Chairperson is elected, a motion is necessary to validate that the town crier will or will not represent the leading Municipal Authority. The appointment would be validated or confirmed by either the returning Chair or accepted by the new Chair.

ON MOTION OF COMMISSIONER LARDER AND COMMISSIONER BISHOP THAT THE VILLAGE COMMISSION KEEP LLOYD SMITH ON AS KINGSTON'S APPOINTED TOWN CRIER. MOTION CARRIED.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – See Full Report

A request was made by a resident on Brookside Drive to have the Village sewer line extended up to their home. Staff determined it would be cost prohibitive for the Village to extend a single line. The line was never brought to the home because the resident at the time did not want it. The only recourse would be if Annapolis County decides to extend sewer up Brookside Dr into their county.

PUBLIC WORKS – See Full Report

Commission asked if cement planter should be added to protect the lamp post close to the parking lot from being hit by vehicles.

RECREATION – See Full Report

Commissioners Avery and Travis will not be able to attend the Seniors Social on August 1st as they have their Thursday commitment to the Kingston Farmers Market. They asked, in future, if staff could hold the event on a day other than Thursday.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – See Full Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steer BBQ

See Community Development report.

Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (JAAC)

Commissioner Bishop attended the June 12th meeting and reported there are five grants available to apply for. He will forward to Clerk. The meeting in Dec will include diversity.

Kingston Area Advisory Committee (KAAC)

N/A

Audit Committee

Committee met before the May 23rd annual general meeting and went through financials. Audit was successful.

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

The annual general meeting is being held tonight at the Lions club.

Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

Clerk will be away during the conference September 20-21. It is advisable that at least two commissioners attend.

CLERK REPORT – See Full Report

Equity and Anti-Racism Plan

Municipalities and villages will be required to have a plan for both the Accessibility and the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act by April 1, 2025. This will likely be done with the County of Kings.

Canada Summer Jobs

Kingston was not successful in receiving grants this year from the federal government. MP's office provided some helpful advice on the application process.

Bridge St Crosswalk

The NS Dept of Public Works require that the Village do a ramp approach on the sidewalk side and a platform on the opposite side.

Capital Projects – See full report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Oakhurst Green Space Request

Commission suggested holding a public meeting at the fire hall and invite the residents of Oakhurst Subdivision. Commission could get a consensus of what they would like to see in the green space and include it in the 5-yr budget plan.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

CLERK/TREASURER