



A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Civic Building.

**Present:** Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, Councillors B. Kinsman, D. Joseph, C. Fritz, G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm

**In Attendance:** Director of Finance A. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture D. MacKenzie, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The CAO requested that “Letter from Farmers’ Market” be added to the agenda under New Business. On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, the agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, the minutes of the Public Council Meeting held January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

#### **MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

##### **a) Public Hearing – Amendments to Planning Documents, Lands South of William Barnhill**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider changing the future land use designation and rezoning of lands south of William Barnhill Drive, to accommodate the future residential and commercial development, as well as planned expansion of the Truro Business Park.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw that would change the future land use designation and zoning of lands south of William Barnhill Drive to accommodate future residential development and a planned expansion of the Truro Business Park were approved as presented. Motion carried.

##### **b) Public Hearing – Municipal Planning Strategy Amendment, Policy IM-33**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy, Policy IM-33, that would state that Planning staff reports be made available to the public when the Town Planning Advisory Committee or Council agenda package is circulated to committee members and Councillors.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy to state that Planning staff reports be made available to the public when the Planning Advisory Committee or Council agenda package is circulated to Committee Members and Councillors were approved as presented. Motion carried.

##### **c) Public Hearing – Municipal Planning Strategy Amendments to the Public Participation Program**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee, recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider approving amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy Public Participation Program.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and C. Fritz, the proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy to revise the Town’s Public Participation Program to reduce the public notification mail out radius, with wording to say “no less than 230 metres”, to reduce the amount of information included in mail-out packages, to rely more on the Town’s website for dispersal of information, and to open up the survey to all residents rather than limit participation to property owners were approved as presented. Motion carried.

#### **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

##### **a) Presentation – African Heritage Month Proclamation**

The Mayor welcomed everyone in attendance for the reception prior to the Council meeting for African Heritage Month. He advised that this would be a yearly event in the month of February. The Mayor welcomed guest speaker, Pastor Brian Johnston of Zion Baptist Church, to say a few words.

Pastor Johnston, on behalf of the African Nova Scotian community in Truro and on behalf of the Community Enhancement Association, thanked the Town for the reception and for recognizing February as African Heritage Month in the Town of Truro.

The Mayor introduced Marie Joan Francis to lead everyone in the singing of the Black National Anthem.

Following the Anthem, the Mayor read and signed the proclamation, declaring February as African Heritage Month in the Town of Truro.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a) Commercial Motor Vehicles in Residential Zones**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Town Planning Advisory Committee regarding the review of the Land Use Bylaw section 4.2.12 commercial motor vehicles, section 4.2.12 of the land use bylaw which prohibits commercial vehicles with a TARE (unladen) weight in excess of 3,650kg (8047lbs) from being parked or stored in a residential zone. The committee concurred with the staff report from the Director of Planning and recommends that Council maintain the existing regulation to address significant concerns related to fire safety, noise, esthetics and neighbourhood integrity.

The Town Solicitor advised that this matter did not require a motion from Council if Council wished to keep the Bylaw as it is current written. If Council were to disagree with the recommendation and would like the Bylaw amended, then a motion would be required.

It was agreed that the Bylaw would remain unchanged.

## **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

The CAO advised Council that there were four legal issues discussed by Council at the last In-Camera meeting and there are three issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **CAO Report**

The CAO report for the month of January was presented to Council.

Councillor T. Chisholm asked when the new flood guidelines would be established.

The CAO advised that the volume of information that is contained in the study is enormous and it would take some time for the Councils to digest and decide on priorities.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes noted that in previous discussions regarding a request for an extension on a development agreement in the Park Street area, Council had discussed instituting a restricted on any potential developments in that area, and asked if waiting on formalizing guidelines would be an issue.

The Town Solicitor advised that it would be difficult for Council to impose a comprehensive ban on development without changing the rules.

The Mayor noted that the Town did on study on climate change, as was required in order to access funds from the Federal Government and asked if that study would have any bearing on some of the future decisions.

The Director of Planning noted that a climate change adaptation/action plan was completed approximately two years ago, and it recommended that the Town review its current Bylaws, which is what is occurring. He stated that he believed the Municipal Government Act had a clause regarding the ability to control development in an interim period while awaiting a review, that he could review and report back to Council on at a future meeting.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that the SMU start up 100 program was a great initiative. He noted that last year he brought up the idea of having a welcome day in September or October of every year, for students attending the colleges and university in the area.

The CAO stated that an initiative he would like to speak to the Business Development Officer and the Chamber of Commerce about was a community campus connection program. This program would embrace the students as they come in and give them a connection with the Town, encouraging them to enjoy the Town while they are here and perhaps to stay in the area after they graduate.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the CAO Report for the month of January, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **Finance Report**

The Finance report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Finance report for the month of January, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **Fire Report**

The Fire Report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of January, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **Planning and Development Report**

The Planning and Development report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of January, 2015 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

### **Police Report**

The Police Report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of January, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### **Public Works Report**

The Public Works report for the month of January was presented to Council.

Councillor G. MacArthur asked for an update regarding where residents can go for information regarding their waste collection during storm days.

The Director of Public Works advised they could go to the Town's website and click the link that would take them to the solid waste website.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the amount of water main breaks the Town experiences is due to old infrastructure.

The Director of Public Works advised that it could be, but that the Town's system is pretty healthy compared to a lot of municipalities. He noted that every year, there are anywhere from half a dozen to 20 water main breaks and they usually occur at times when it is very cold and there is a big change in the weather with the frost moving.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that he had some reservations about the proposed removal of one of the sidewalks at the Pleasant and Charles Street intersection. He asked if the removal of a crosswalk and the potential pruning of the trees on the adjoining property would occur in the Spring.

The Director of Public Works advised that the proposed work would occur in the Spring and after consultation with the homeowner regarding the trees.

Councillor D. Joseph asked if the Traffic Authority would consider replacing the Stop sign at Willow to Prince Street with a Yield sign, since most drivers do not actually stop anyway.

The Director of Public Works advised that the intersection could be reviewed, but that he would be hesitant to replace the Stop sign with a Yield sign due to all the streets that converge in that area and he would be concerned with pedestrian safety.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of January, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### **Parks, Recreation and Culture Report**

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of January, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### **Safety Coordinators Report**

The Safety Coordinators Report for the month of January was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Safety Coordinators Report for the month of January, 2015 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes congratulated Councillor C. Fritz and the Equity and Diversity Committee, along with Council, for recognizing the importance of African Heritage Month. He advised that the Canadian Race Relations Foundation was coming to Halifax this month for a conference on inner faith and immigrant cultural diversity, if any Council members were interested in attending.

Deputy Mayor R. Tynes also noted that he would also be putting on a special evening at the Marigold Centre on February 20<sup>th</sup> to engage, educate and empower the community on the history of race in Nova Scotia.

Councillor B. Kinsman noted that one of the ways the Town informs the public of proposed development agreement applications was the placement of a sign on the property, and asked if the Town would still continue to do this.

The Director of Planning advised that the Town still requires that the developer post a sign advising of the proposed development agreement on the subject property.

Councillor T. Chisholm noted that recently while he was investigating one of the properties for a proposed development agreement, he found the large yellow sign in the woods, upside down, instead of on the property. He asked who was responsible for maintaining the signage.

The Director of Planning advised that it was the developer's responsibility to post the sign and make sure it stays up on the property. If the sign is noticed to be missing, then the Planning Department contacts the developer to ensure that the sign is replaced.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that approximately two years ago he brought the idea of funding a video for the Town to Council and it was referred to the Tourism Committee, where it seems to have died.

The Mayor noted, as a member of that Committee, that the matter was discussed, but that the cost to create and advertise the video in Alberta, as was the intention, was too high, but that the discussion led to the rebranding that is currently taking place.

Councillor G. MacArthur stated that he would like to see the video be moved forward.

The Mayor advised that there is another organization in the area, a former employee of Eastlink who is now in the production business for videos and perhaps the Town could touch base with him and it could be discussed at the next Tourism Committee meeting.

Councillor C. Fritz thanked the Equity and Diversity Committee for their assistance with the event today, especially Administrative Support Megan Fitzgerald and Human Resource Office Tammy Hamlin. She also noted that the Art Acquisition Show was coming up in April and registration forms were available online for artists to register.

The Mayor advised that he read a good comment in the Truro Daily News that he wanted to bring up regarding the RECC, a comment in response to a story from the previous week. The commenter, Rick Harrison, stated that the public already knows the facts clearly indicating this facility was ill-planned in regards to where it was placed to errors leading to cost overruns on construction. Add to that a proven significant prior year deficit, poor communication from facility stakeholders and what is the public supposed to think? Prove the public perception wrong, then they will be getting somewhere. The Mayor stated that he appreciated someone making a comment and actually putting their name with it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a) Appeal – Taxi License**

The CAO advised that a taxi license appeal was scheduled for today, but it was being recommended that Council adjourn until a future meeting.

The Town Solicitor noted that taxi license appeals can involve highly personal information. He stated that the appellant in this case agrees, and if Council agrees, then the matter can be moved to the next date in which Council sits "in committee", Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, in which a short public Council meeting could precede the meeting and Council could hear the appeal at that time.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and B. Kinsman, it was agreed that the taxi license appeal would be adjourned and be on the agenda for a special public Council meeting to take place on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 prior to Council's regularly scheduled "in committee" meeting. Motion carried.

### **b) Electronic Voting**

The CAO advised that he had met with the Town's previous returning officer regarding the last election using electronic voting and moving forward for next year's election. He stated that the returning officer was looking for Council endorsement to move forward and continue with the electronic voting process, as there is a certain amount of lead time required to organize the voting. The CAO stated that the UNSM is currently in the process of looking at a bulk contract for municipalities for a company to provide this service in which the Town could take advantage of, should it be the right company.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that the Town would move forward with plans to use electronic voting for the 2016 municipal election. Motion carried.

**c) Committee Nominations**

The CAO advised that Council had reviewed a list of potential citizen volunteers for Town committees, and requested a motion of Council to approve the list.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor C. Fritz, the citizen committee appointments were approved as presented. Motion carried.

**d) Recommendation from HAC re: St. John's Anglican Church**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from St. John's Anglican Church requesting approval to substantially alter the registered municipal heritage property in accordance with section 7.1 of the Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act, to provide accessibility to all levels of both the church and the church hall by constructing a link that includes a single elevator. He noted that the Church has had a design completed, and they feel it is respectful to the heritage characteristics of both the church and hall buildings. The CAO advised that the request went to the Heritage Advisory Committee, and they were recommending that Council approve the alteration to the Church.

On motion of Councillors G. MacArthur and T. Chisholm, the request from St. John's Anglican Church for alterations to their registered municipal heritage property to construct a link between the Church and the hall, was approved as recommended by the Heritage Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

**e) 2015 Provincial Volunteer Award**

The CAO advised that National Volunteer Week is April 12<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Town of Truro and the County of Colchester are giving organizations an opportunity to recognize a special volunteer who has made a positive impact on their organization and the community as a whole. A panel of judges will select one volunteer nominee as a representative volunteer from the Town of Truro, and one volunteer nominee from County of Colchester to take part in a Provincial award ceremony in Halifax on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Truro and County of Colchester will honour all nominees whose outstanding volunteer commitments have made a significant impact on our community with an invitation to a special local reception. To recognize these volunteers, please fill out an application form located on the Town of Truro website, at the Town Parks & Rec office, or Colchester County Recreation Department. Nomination forms and all necessary documentation must reach the Town of Truro or Colchester County recreation department services office by 4:30pm on February 13<sup>th</sup> to be considered for the Provincial volunteer award, or March 31<sup>st</sup> for all other awards.

**f) 2015 Masters Grand Slam of Curling**

The CAO advised that the RECC, the County of Colchester and the Town of Truro have created an ad hoc committee to develop the framework for hosting the Sportsnet 2015 Masters Grand Slam of Curling. He noted that the basic requirement of the program is \$150,000, plus an additional \$35,000 for the host committee to support the operating and organizational costs. The CAO stated that the RECC will be covering the \$150,000 cost through ticket sales, provincial grants, sponsorships and venue sales, with the Town and County being asked to provide the \$35,000 to the host committee. He advised that he and the County CAO are recommending that both Councils use funds from the wind up of CoRDA towards the \$35,000 request.

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor R. Tynes, it was agreed that the Town of Truro would contribute \$17,500 to the host committee of the 2015 Masters Grand Slam of Curling, to come from CoRDA wind up funds. Motion carried.

The CAO also noted that the RECC has identified deficiencies in the equipment necessary to properly execute major concerts and entertainment events. He advised that currently the RECC incurs costs of over \$5,300 per event for the rental of staging, lifts, movement of ice cover and the removal of the hockey boards. The RECC is proposing that an ACOA application be submitted for the amount of \$124,415 plus HST to acquire equipment, including staging, a storage unit, a man-lift or a scissor HST, and sliding stanchions. The CAO stated that the recovery of the money being spent should be within 2.3 years, given the amount of events planned. The ACOA application would be for \$62,207.50 plus HST, and the RECC is requesting that the Town and County provide \$31,103.75 plus HST each. The CAO advised that it is his recommendation that this funding also come from CoRDA wind up funds.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor D. Joseph, it was agreed that the Town of Truro would contribute \$31,103.75 plus HST to the RECC for purchase of equipment necessary to properly execute major concerts and entertainment events, as presented, and that this money would come from the funds from the wind up of CoRDA. Motion carried.

**g) Letter from Farmers' Market**

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Farmers' Market, requesting permission to develop a small teaching garden and play area in front of the Truro Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market is submitting an application for a summer student and their role will be to assist with the development and implementation of an education program for youth at the market.

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was agreed that the Farmers' Market request would be forwarded to the Heritage Advisory Committee, Town Planning Advisory Committee, the Recreation Committee and the Farmers' Market Advisory Committee for review and recommendation. Motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS**

It was moved by Councillors T. Chisholm and C. Fritz, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented be approved for the month of January, 2015. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Deputy Mayor R. Tynes and Councillor G. MacArthur, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m. Motion carried.

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W.R. (Bill) Mills  
Mayor

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M.W. Dolter  
CAO