



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, Councillors D. Joseph, C. Fritz, C. Hinton, B. Kinsman, and W. Talbot

In Attendance: Director of Corporate Services A. Currie, Fire Chief B. Currie, Director of Planning J. Fox, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture J. Dawe, Police Chief D. MacNeil, Town Solicitor J. Rafferty and CAO M. Dolter

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, the agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, the Public Hearing minutes and Public Council minutes of July 9th, 2018 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor W. Talbot, the Public Council minutes of July 13th, 2018 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 1 Willow Lane, Amendments to Planning Documents

The CAO advised that the Town Planning Advisory Committee was recommending amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw to change the Future Land Use Designation and Zoning of 1 Willow Lane from the General Commercial Designation and General Commercial (C4) Zone to the General Residential Designation and General Residential (R3) Zone, to permit a single unit dwelling.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Hinton, a public hearing date of October 1st, 2018 at 1pm was established for Council to consider amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw to permit the development of a single unit dwelling at 1 Willow Lane. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Naming of Trails in Victoria Park

The Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture gave a presentation to Council on the naming of new trails in Victoria Park. The new trails are named after Doug MacKenzie, former Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Boyd Parsons, Jim McCready and Ken Hollingsworth, all long time former Recreation staff who dedicated years to beautifying the park.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Review Update

The CAO advised that Senior Staff are still preparing their priorities and will be meeting in the next two weeks.

b) Awnings and Signs Bylaw Repeal – 2nd Reading

The CAO advised that 1st reading of the repeal of the Awnings and Signs Bylaw took place at the June Council meeting, with 2nd reading to take place today. The Bylaw was created in 1895 and is no longer required.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and D. Joseph, 2nd reading of the repeal of the Awnings and Signs Bylaw was approved as presented and the Bylaw is hereby repealed. Motion carried.

c) Deer Update

The CAO advised that further to discussions at previous meetings and meetings with the Department of Natural Resources, the Town had a pellet study completed to better determine the amount of deer in the area. The pellet study has confirmed that the Town of Truro has significantly more deer within the Town than in the rest of the 107 zone (the Town is within the 107 zone). He stated that based on that information, there is some evidence that steps could be taken by Council in order to reduce the number of deer.

The CAO advised that during discussions with the Department of Natural Resources, a number of options were considered and studied. One of the recommendations is that the Town continue the pellet study on an annual basis in order to follow the population trends. The CAO noted that he had provided Council with a briefing note for today's meeting and within the note, staff have identified three options for Council to consider. The first option is to enforce the no feeding bylaw and take no other action. However, this option may allow the deer population to continue to expand and those residents who have an issue with the deer will be becoming increasingly dissatisfied.

The second option is to continue with the annual pellet study and implement a hunt with a selected group of hunters under existing regulations for a five year period. The exact details of option two still need to be decided upon. The CAO stated that bow hunting is currently allowed within Town boundaries and this option would involve the Town encouraging more bow hunting with control over who the hunters are.

The third option is a longer term option and would basically be the second option carried on for two to three years and studying the population numbers. If the hunts are having a less than desired effect on the numbers, the Town could investigate special licensing which would allow hunts to be brought in closer proximity to residences but still within acceptable limits for distance. The Department of Natural Resources would like a number of years of data on the population before taking that step. The CAO stated that staff are recommending option 2 with further investigation and planning with the Department of Natural Resources.

Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm advised that he was not interested in option 1. He stated he preferred option 2 because it involved starting a hunt sooner rather than later, like option 3.

The Mayor stated that he was in favour of a hunt, with more details to be worked out. He advised that he believed that once the Town of Truro made a decision, other municipalities with deer issues would take a similar approach.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that decisions as a Councillor are not always easy, but that he was in favour of the extended hunt. He stated that he would like to explore the possibility of attracting the deer from the center of Town to the outskirts where the hunt will be taking place.

Councillor D. Joseph advised that he was in favour of a controlled bow hunt.

Councillor C. Fritz advised that she was in favour of option 2 and would like to see more details on how it would be implemented.

Councillor C. Hinton stated that they was in favour of controlling the deer population.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that at this point in time, he is opposed to a cull. He noted that according to the survey the Town conducted previously, 75% were not in favour a cull. Councillor B. Kinsman noted that the pellet study was for one year only and he would like to see additional study. While the deer can be a public nuisance, he does not consider them a huge public risk.

The Director of Public Works stated that option 2 is not necessarily a "hunt" or "cull", but encouraging more bow hunting that is permitted under current regulations.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that when Councillor B. Kinsman mentioned the 75% of survey participants were not in favour a hunt, that those numbers are only based on the people who participated in the survey. He asked what percentage of the Town participated in the survey.

The CAO advised that there were 1,700 respondents to the Town's survey and not all of them were Town residents.

On motion of Councillor C. Fritz and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was agreed that staff will investigate option 2 further and bring back a draft plan for next month's Council meeting. Motion carried with six votes in favour and one nay vote cast by Councillor B. Kinsman.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

The CAO advised Council that there were two issues discussed at the incamera meeting for the month of July and there are three issues to be discussed by Council at the incamera meeting today.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

The CAO report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the CAO Report for the months of July and August, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

The Corporate Services report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the months of July and August, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

The Fire Report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Fritz, it was moved that the Fire Report for the months of July and August, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

The Planning and Development report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Fritz, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the months of July and August, 2018 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillor C. Fritz and Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of August, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

The Public Works report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

Councillor D. Joseph noted that the Town and CN met recently and asked if CN presented an ultimatum regarding the yard off of Munroe Court.

The Director of Public Works advised that CN have made it clear that they do not want to establish new driveways or crossings in their yard.

The Mayor stated that a 90 day trial has been put in place and after 90 days, CN and the Town will meet again to discuss the results. If the Town is not satisfied, there is still the option to proceed with the plan to close Munroe Court to truck traffic.

The CAO advised that CN did not provide any answers for what the course of action would be if the Town was not satisfied after the 90 day trial. He stated that CN had agreed to discuss the issue with their tenant and attempt to alleviate the issue. The CAO noted that every time a truck is ticketed by the Town during the 90 days, CN will be advised so they are fully aware of the magnitude.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that residents on McLean Street are happy with the new paving last year, but some were wondering about getting some clean up at the top of the street, perhaps a wood barrier.

Councillor C. Hinton stated that she believed some photographs were sent to the Director regarding the condition of the street and sidewalk on Palmer Street but she did not believe a response had been received.

The Director of Public Works advised that he would look into the photographs.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that there were some trip hazards on the sidewalks on Laurie Street.

Councillor C. Hinton stated that she had been receiving some calls from residents regarding trees on bordering properties that they were concerned about. She asked residents to check their trees for signs of damage or dead trees and to have potential hazards removed.

The Director of Public Works advised that his department will review any street side tree that someone is concerned about, and can also provide advice to someone who is concerned about a neighbouring tree.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the months of July and August, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the months of July and August was presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor D. Joseph, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the months of July and August, 2018 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor C. Fritz expressed concern regarding the water shut offs for unpaid bills and how that affected people who were renting and the landlord has not paid the water bill.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that there are still cases in which a landlord has unpaid water bills. Unfortunately, the Town does need to collect that money and do everything within the Town's power to contact the landlord repeatedly.

Councillor C. Fritz asked if the landlord makes arrangements for payment, will the water be turned back on.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that typically the department is requesting that, at minimum, 50% of the outstanding amount be paid before service is returned.

Councillor C. Hinton noted that the Town garbage can on East Prince Street by the former Ben's Bakery was overflowing due to people leaving their garbage there.

The CAO stated that the garbage can would be looked at.

Councillor B. Kinsman advised that previously the Town has left issues between neighbours with regards to the redirection of water to the civil process, but he was wondering if the Town could create a bylaw that deal with water discharge onto adjoining properties.

The CAO advised that staff could investigate the possibility of a water discharge bylaw and report back at a future Council meeting.

Councillor W. Talbot asked if, as part of the Town's ongoing leaf collection, residents could be required to use only the disposable bags and not the plastic bags.

The CAO advised that staff would investigate and report back.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Refinancing Loans

The CAO advised that Council had previously approved temporary borrowing resolutions to refinance the balance of two loans with the majority dates of October 2018. He stated that Loan 23A1 is the amount of \$715,000 and Loan 28A1 is the amount of \$450,000. The Municipal Finance Corporation requires Council to approve the resolution for re-approval of debentures issuance subject to interest rate in order to complete the approval of the refinance borrowing. The CAO advised that the provided resolutions give the Municipal Finance Corporation the authority to borrow on behalf of the Town of Truro at an interest rate not to exceed the rates stated in the resolution.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that these loans are not new loans, they are loans that are coming due for a balloon payment and the Town wishes to refinance them over a period of five years.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, the resolution for the preapproval of debenture issuance subject to the interest rate of refinancing of loan 23A1 and 28A1. Motion carried.

b) Letters re: CN

The CAO reviewed a letter sent by the Town to CN regarding the Town's concerns over truck traffic on Munroe Court.

The Mayor advised that the letter evoked a response from the President of CN and he and the CAO met with CN representatives last week. He stated that CN and the Town have agreed to a 90 day trial period for improvement with the truck issues and if that was not satisfactory to the Town at the end of the 90 days, the Town will proceed with the six months' notice to close Munroe Court to truck traffic.

The CAO advised that at the meeting last week, the Town was hand delivered a letter regarding trespassing and the presence of the platform link near the Truro VIA station. The letter stated that CN Police have expressed a concern about trespassing between the Prince Street and Young Street crossings and this has become a particular concern for CN. Because there is no infrastructure in place to physically restrict access to railway tracks at this location, and CN is recommending the installation of a new chain link fence along the railway corridor. CN was proposing that the Town pay for half of the fence and installation, the total cost of which is expected to be approximately \$75,000.

The CAO stated that the installation of the fence would render the tunnel through the Truro Centre useless. The fence would also cut off access to Victoria Park from the downtown area.

It was agreed that staff would further review the CN letter and fencing option and report back to Council at a future public meeting.

c) Letter from CN re: Safety Week

The CAO reviewed a letter from CN requesting that Council approve a resolution proclaiming September 23-29 as "Rail Safety Week". Council agreed that the proclamation would be signed.

d) NSFM Board Report

The CAO reviewed the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board Report with Council for their information.

e) Right to Know Week

The CAO reviewed a letter received from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner in which the Town was asked to participate in "Right to Know Week". It was agreed that the proclamation provided would be signed by the Town, proclaiming September 24-30 as "Right to Know Week".

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Hinton and C. Fritz, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented for the month of August, 2018. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m. Motion carried.

W.R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M.W. Dolter
CAO