



**Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, December 2nd, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Council Chambers – Town Hall**

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, December 2nd, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

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

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

HOLIDAY HEROES

Scott Milbury from the Police Service provided an overview of Holiday Heroes. This program was initiated by the Truro Police Service and in its third year of operation. Volunteers are needed to help provide a Christmas for 60+ kids. Christmas dinner will also be served this year. It will take place on December 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with many activities planned throughout the day. Anyone interested can contact Scott.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CAO M. Dolter noted an amendment to the Agenda with the addition of the appointment of a new Town Solicitor which will be captured as item 10 (i).

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and W. Talbot, the Agenda was approved as amended. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and W. Talbot, the Minutes for November 4th, 2019 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing – 184 Arthur Street, Development Agreement

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, approval of the Development Agreement application made by the Colchester Community Workshop proposing 6 dwelling units at 184 Arthur Street, was granted as presented. Motion carried.

b) Development Agreement – 180 Victoria Street & 46 Forrester Street

On motion of Councillor B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, a public hearing date of January 6th, 2020 was established. Motion carried.

4. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS** – N/A
5. **OLD BUSINESS** – N/A
6. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter advised there was no in-camera session in November. There will be two (2) items to discuss in-camera following December's public meeting.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CAO Report

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

Councillor D. Joseph asked for clarification on the alcohol symposium and the comment in the report referring to minimizing alcohol. CAO M. Dolter indicated from a municipal perspective, we would minimize the advertisement of the drinking aspects of community events.

Corporate Services Report

The Corporate Services report for the month of November was presented to Council.

Fire Report

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Councillor B. Kinsman asked about the type of solid waste complaints. J. Fox advised that it's typically things like overflowing bins, garbage left out outside of regular pick up times, large items left on the curb, etc.

Councillor B. Kinsman also asked about the new bylaw where garbage bins are to be placed six (6) metres from the road. J. Fox indicated that residents were informed and were given a period of time to comply which the bylaw is now being enforced. There has been negative feedback received from Camden/Harmony residents. J. Fox indicated that perhaps these areas should be excluded from the bylaw which will need to be brought back to Council for amendment.

Police Report

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

Public Works Report

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

Councillor C. Hinton asked about when the sidewalks would be addressed on Ross and Laurie Streets. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon advised work would begin soon and would continue throughout the winter when crews were not doing snow removal, weather permitting.

Councillor C. Hinton also asked if the Town has ever considered parking on only one side of Prince Street during the winter. CAO M. Dolter noted that the Town has not considered this as it would have an impact on merchants. Once the snowbanks reach a certain height, the Town proceeds with removal of the snow.

A resident informed Councillor C. Hinton of vehicles speeding on Arthur Street, by the Glengarry and almost being struck in the crosswalk. It was asked as to whether a traffic camera could be installed. CAO M. Dolter indicated that controlling traffic speed could be looked at, as well, Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon further indicated that they were looking at optimizing the traffic signal timings at that intersection which may also help with this issue.

Further to Councillor C. Hinton's above comments regarding traffic on Arthur Street, by the Glengarry, Councillor D. Joseph advised that it's difficult for drivers to see pedestrian walk signals at that intersection. In addition, it's very difficult for drivers to see pedestrians along Prince Street where the parking spots about the bump outs and the crosswalk. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated that they would have a look at this.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was moved that all reports for the month of November 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor C. Hinton asked what the process is to name or rename a street. CAO M. Dolter indicated the policy will be reviewed and then provided to Council.

Councillor C. Hinton advised that a tour of Ward 3 was done alongside Mayor B. Mills, CAO M. Dolter and Councillor D. Joseph. It was noted there were eight (8) abandoned buildings in the Ward and the question was raised to CAO M. Dolter what will be done about these buildings. CAO M. Dolter advised the policy should be reviewed and some options could be explored with recommendations provided to Council. Councillor C. Hinton suggested an annual 'Council Tour' of all wards.

Councillor C. Hinton notified Council that there was a recent meeting in Truro regarding tenancy and landlords which was hosted by Amherst's MLA. Councillor C. Hinton didn't believe all key players were at the table as no one from the Town was invited. Councillor C. Hinton addressed this, and therefore, we will be copied on any correspondence related to the meeting.

Arches for Herb Peppard Park can be designed by Wayne Smith at no cost to the Town or taxpayers if approved by Council. CAO M. Dolter indicated that Parks & Recreation along with Public Works should first review the design from a maintenance and safety perspective. Upon review of the design, request for approval can then be brought before Council.

Regarding February's Public Council Meeting during African Nova Scotian Month, Councillor C. Hinton asked if it was possible to have an earlier start time of 11:30 am. Mayor B. Mills advised that there did not appear to be an issue with this, it would just need to be communicated.

Further to African Nova Scotian Month, Councillor W. Talbot advised he received numerous complaints last year at the lack of advertisement promoting the event. Mayor B. Mills indicated that the upcoming presentation to Council regarding a Communications Plan should address this issue (see item 10 (b)).

Councillor W. Talbot expressed his concern with the Province's Accessibility Plan which is to be implemented by 2030. A Committee with representation from the disability community has yet to be formed. CAO M. Dolter noted that a committee for this plan is to be in place by April 2020. The formation of this committee will begin soon.

Councillor W. Talbot attended the closing ceremony regarding the investigation of colored homes. A document which provided an overview will get circulated amongst Councillors as information.

Councillor B. Kinsman asked for clarification regarding the Victoria Park Management Plan and whether a checklist of all the recommendations from the various studies could be provided. CAO M. Dolter advised that the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms has already begun reviewing the Plan's action items and a report would be provided back to Council after it's first provided to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee.

Mayor B. Mills asked Council for approval to have a letter sent to Lenore Zann regarding the gas tax rebate requesting the perpetual doubling of the rebate highlighting how helpful it's been to municipal units. Council supported this request.

9. **MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION** – N/A

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Holiday Heroes/Truro Police Service** – presented to Council at the first of the meeting.
- b) **Communications Plan** – A proposed communications plan was presented to Council.
 - A concern was expressed regarding those who may not have computer access as well as with quality control; we need to ensure all content is timely, accurate, factual with consistent messaging.
 - Manager of Economic Development A. Grant indicated that senior staff and Council would be consulted to help build content on a regular basis.
 - The idea of the plan is to compliment what Truro Buzz is already doing.
 - All press releases will be approved by the CAO prior to being posted to social media.
 - A breakdown of users using the Town's social media platforms from a demographic perspective was not explored, however, this could be done and presented to Council.

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor C. Hinton, approval of the presented communications plan was granted and for the communications team to proceed with implementation. Motion carried.

c) **Library Board Member Appointment**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, it was moved that Donna MacGillivray be appointed as a member of the Regional Library Board. Motion carried.

d) **Citizen Survey/Physical Activity Strategy**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms briefed Council on the redevelopment of Truro's Physical Activity Strategy with phase one (1) being a citizen phone survey to be completed by Nova Insights & Vision Research during selected times in December and January. This information will also be posted to the Town's social media platforms.

e) **RECC Solar Energy Project**

The County of Colchester approached the Town last year regarding the installation of solar panels on the co-owned RECC building. The Town declined to be involved in the project due to other financial obligations. The Town would support the County should they wish to proceed, contingent upon confirmation of structural integrity of the installation by an engineer, of which was received by the Town. A formal agreement will be prepared between the municipal units upon approval from Council to define any liabilities, maintenance and repairs associated with the project.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Fritz, approval was granted for the County of Colchester to proceed with the solar panel project as presented. Motion carried.

f) **4H Concert/Colchester Legion Stadium**

4H is requesting the in-kind use of the Colchester Legion Stadium October 1st and/or October 2nd, 2020 to host a Gord Bamford concert.

There were some initial challenges/considerations:

- The ice will be in; therefore, flooring is an issue. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms contacted Matt Moore at the RECC to enquire about the use of theirs. The RECC has tentative bookings at that time, and so, cannot guarantee its use. A. Simms to follow up with Matt Moore regarding availability of the flooring.
- Overall, the cost to the Town is estimated to be between \$10,000-\$15,000; to off-set the loss of revenue, can the Town receive a portion of the sale of the tickets or the sale of beverages at the bar? Should the County be approached for shared in-kind support being that 4H is a rural initiative?
- Two (2) forklifts would also be required, in which, the Town only has one (1), therefore, the other would need to be rented.

Should the RECC's flooring be available for the Town's use, further discussion will need to take place with respect to the other issues prior to a decision.

g) **Deer Issue/Minister's Letter**

CAO M. Dolter read Minister Iain Rankin's letter responding to the Town's correspondence regarding nuisance deer. There is a meeting scheduled December 12th, 2019 with the Province in which this letter will be discussed. For the time being, the Town will continue to collect data and provide Council with a recommendation in due course.

h) **Climate Crisis/Berwick Letter**

CAO M. Dolter read Berwick's letter dated October 24th, 2019 confirming its declaration of a climate emergency and highlighted the Town's efforts to mitigate climate change.

Following a discussion on this issue, on motion of Councillors C. Fritz and D. Joseph, it was moved that the Town of Truro adopt a climate crisis position and commits to move forward with a sustainability strategy. Motion carried.

i) **Appointment of New Town Solicitor**

CAO M. Dolter advised that Mr. John Rafferty, who has acted as the Town's Solicitor for 29 years, will be retiring and therefore stepping down. Effective January 6, 2020, the Town is requesting that Council appoint Mr. Charles Thompson as its new Solicitor along with Mr. Kelly R. Mittelstadt as its Deputy Solicitor.

On motion of Councillors C. Fritz and D. Joseph, it was moved that Mr. Charles Thompson be appointed as the Town's Solicitor and Mr. Kelly R. Mittelstadt as the Town's Deputy Solicitor. Motion carried.

11. **MUNICIPAL GRANT REQUESTS** – N/A

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and Councillor B. Kinsman, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the month of November 2019. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:35 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO