



Truro Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 8th, 2019 at 1:00 pm
Council Chambers – Town Hall

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A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council was held on Monday, July 8th, 2019 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Truro Town Hall.

Present: Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm, Councillors D. Joseph B. Kinsman, C. Hinton, and W. Talbot

Regrets: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills and Councillor C. Fritz

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, the Public Council minutes of June 10th, 2019 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a) Public Hearing Date – 25 Dominion Street

The CAO advised that the Town Planning Advisory Committee is recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider permitting two additional dwelling units in an existing multiple unit dwelling at 25 Dominion Street. The proposed development does not include any modifications to the exterior of the building nor any changes to the square footage of the building.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, a public hearing date of September 9th, 2019 at 1pm was established for Council to consider a development agreement application by Olfi Properties Incorporated to permit two additional dwelling units in an existing multiple unit dwelling at 25 Dominion Street. Motion carried.

b) Public Hearing Date – 880 Prince Street/11 Havelock Street

The CAO advised that the Town Planning Advisory Committee is recommending that Council establish a public hearing date to consider the development of 6-9 dwelling units in an existing mixed-used building located at 880 Prince Street and 11 Havelock Street.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, a public hearing date of September 9th, 2019 at 1pm was established for Council to consider a development agreement application by Walker Lofts Inc. to permit the development of 6-9 dwelling units in an existing mixed-use building located at 880 Prince Street and 11 Havelock Street. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a) Presentation – Urban Forestry Coordinator re: Invasive Species

The Town's Urban Forestry Coordinator, Andrew Williams, gave a presentation to Council on invasive species of insects that could pose a threat to trees within the Town of Truro. He suggested that a comprehensive urban forest master plan be created that includes a policy on dealing with invasive alien species. A. Williams spoke of partnering with the Dal AC campus on creating the policy. He noted that it could be helpful for the Town to submit a letter to both the Province and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency expressing concern over the pending arrival of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid because of the high competent of Eastern Hemlock within Victoria Park and explain what the Park means to the Town.

IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAO Report

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

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, it was moved that the CAO report for the month of June, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Corporate Services Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Corporate Services report for the month of June, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Fire Report for the month of June, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Planning and Development Report

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

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was moved that the Planning and Development report for the month of June, 2019 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Police Report for the month of June, 2019 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Public Works Report

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

Councillor W. Talbot noted that residents seem to think that potholes are only a Truro problem when they are actually a problem across Nova Scotia. He asked if there was more communication the Town could do to ensure residents are aware.

The CAO advised that the Town Facebook and Twitter is updated daily with locations where potholes were patched, but staff can have discussion on how to communicate the fact that potholes are a province wide issue.

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and B. Kinsman, it was moved that the Public Works Report for the month of June, 2019 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Parks, Recreation and Culture Report

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

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was moved that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Report for the month of June, 2019 be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor D. Joseph noted that he would still like to see the Town implement a policy to ban single use plastic. He noted that some other jurisdictions have already banned single use plastic with no issues.

Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm advised that the Northern Region Waste Committee is waiting on the province to implement a policy in which the Town would likely follow suit. He suggested that if the Town were to create a policy prior to that, it would need to be in conjunction with the County of Colchester.

The CAO advised that staff could have discussions with the Downtown Truro Partnership and the Town's Business Development Manager about reaching out to local businesses regarding their use of single use plastic. He noted that some local restaurants have already started to eliminate plastic drinking straws on their initiative.

NEW BUSINESS**a) Request for additional parking on Commercial Street**

The CAO advised that with the development of "The Common Works" on Commercial Street, the Town has been approached to consider increasing the parking on Commercial Street. This street was reconfigured to include angled parking on the east side in 2001 with through-traffic was diverted to Court Street and Willow Street realignment. Parallel parking was kept on the west side of Commercial Street to accommodate the Welcome Centre/Information Centre parking as well as to not encroach on Victoria Square. To accommodate the request for more parking on Commercial Street, angled parking on the west side will need to be considered. Angled parking will require a four foot strip of land be removed from Victoria Square. This however, will add approximately 15 parking spaces to Commercial Street. It should also create more of a "parking lot feel" to the street, encouraging through-traffic to bypass Commercial Street and drive around the Square, as was intended with the original redesign in 2001.

Councillor D. Joseph expressed concern as to the parking availability for vehicles with campers and for busses if the current parking was changed to the proposed angled parking.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he was not in favour of the proposed angled parking. He noted that Victoria Square is the oldest park in Truro by several decades and its a historic spot. He also expressed concern for parking of larger vehicles.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, it was agreed that Council supports the redesign, and evaluation of costs, of adding angled parking on the west side of Commercial Street. Motion denied with one vote in favour cast by Deputy Mayor T. Chisholm and four nay votes.

b) Appointment of New Building Official

The CAO advised that Avery Withrow has been hired as the Town's new Bylaw Enforcement Officer/Deputy Building Inspector. This new hire requires Council to officially appoint Mr. Withrow as a Building Official in accordance with Section 5(2) of the Building Code Act R.S., c. 46, s.1.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and W. Talbot, Mr. Avery Withrow was appointed as a Building Official for the Town of Truro. Motion carried.

c) Bow Hunting in Town Watershed

The CAO advised that as part of the Town's deer management efforts, the Watershed area was opened to bow and cross bow hunters during the 2018 deer hunt. The decision to open this area was made with little notice to hunters and therefore few hunters took advantage of the opportunity. We have been told by the Hunters Association that hunters need time to properly scout an area prior to hunting season to determine locations for hunting stands. There was not enough time to do so in the 2018 season. To better enable hunters to avail of this opportunity, staff is recommending that the Watershed area should be permanently opened to the deer hunting for bow and cross bow as to allow for the necessary preparation time. The actual area to be hunted to be determined by Town staff in conjunction with officials from the Department of Lands and Forests as date from the population counts is reviewed. This area will be designated in August of each year.

Councillor W. Talbot noted that from the presentation of the Hunters Association a few months ago, he was under the impression that the bow hunters were not hunting the urban deer population, but a different population. He expressed concern over why the hunt would continue if it was not going to reduce the urban deer population.

The CAO advised that as the Town moves through the process of annual bow hunting and continued data collection, it may eventually form an urban deer hunt. The current hunt of the rural deer could prevent those deer from eventually moving into the town.

Councillor B. Kinsman stated that he understood that the 2018 deer hunt did not result in many deer being eliminated and suggested that the hunt be approved on an annual basis.

The Director of Public Works noted that the current deer hunt may not effect the urban deer population currently, but that not allowing hunting for the past 50-60 years likely contributed to the current urban deer problem. The current hunting may prevent new deer populations from moving into town.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, the opening of designated areas of the Truro Watershed area to bow and cross bow deer hunting as part of the annual 2019 regular bow and cross bow season was approved. Motion carried with four votes in favour and one nay vote cast by Councillor W. Talbot.

d) Discharge of Development Agreement Request – 26 Logan Street

The CAO advised that the property owners of 26 Logan Street, Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Colchester County, was requesting a discharge of the existing Development Agreement. The agreement has been in effect since 1997 to permit professional offices and a residential unit. Big Brothers Big Sisters has relocated and wish to sell the property for residential purposes. Staff is recommending that Council discharge the development agreement.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, the development agreement for 26 Logan Street was discharged. Motion carried.

e) Bible Hill River Crossing – Waterline

The CAO advised that Council approved the Bible Hill River Crossing Waterline replacement project for the 2018-19 budget. This project would see the necessary replacement of waterline to Bible Hill customers in order to properly supply them with water. This project had a budget of \$100,000. The project at completed totaled \$129,091.59. Council is required to approve additional costs greater than the approved budgeted amount. Staff is requesting Council's approval of the additional costs. The additional funds would come from the depreciation reserve and the funds are available in this reserve.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, the additional costs of \$29,091.59 for the Bible Hill River Crossing waterline project for the 2018-19 were approved by Council to be reallocated from the depreciation reserve. Motion carried.

f) Purchase of Equipment for Recreation Department

The CAO advised that the current landscaping equipment for the Recreation Department, a Gator at the TAAC, requires repairs that are not economical given that the equipment is 20 years old. The department has requested to purchase new equipment and it is needed immediately, given this is the highest demand season for field maintenance at the TAAC. There is funding available within the existing TAAC maintenance budget to cover the cost of this equipment replacement. Victoria Park staff also require a Gator for the lower park area as the equipment they were using, an ATV, has been delegated to the trail development in the Railyard area as it is better purposed for the rough terrain. There is funding within the Victoria Park maintenance budget to cover the cost of this equipment purchase.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, Council approved the reallocation of existing operating budgets to purchase two Gators for the Town’s Recreation Department. Motion carried.

g) Additional Gas Tax – Allocation Approval

The CAO advised that with the announcement of the one-time doubling of gas tax funding, Town staff have put together a list of projects that can be completed in this construction season. The selected projects all add to the sustainability of our Street Ratings System and 5 year Capital Plan. The streets that are selected by staff are streets that are all asphalt over-lay projects, making them very conducive to being added to our current list of annual projects. The streets include: Arthur Street (King to Willow) \$85,000, Camden Road (Harmony Road to Town line) \$330,000, Harmony Road (Town line to Town line) \$115,000, Marshland Drive (Robie Street to Park Street) \$315,000 and Victoria Park Splashpad or paving spots on Brunswick, Queen, Robie and Young \$150,000.

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and W. Talbot, it was agreed that the projects/streets presented, including the Victoria Park Splashpad, for asphalt over-lay be added to the 2019-20 Capital Budget as the allocation of the Gas Tax Fund. Motion carried.

h) Ratification of APA Collective Agreement

The CAO advised that the Town and the Atlantic Police Association (APA) that represents the members of the Truro Police Service under APA Local 102, have been negotiating with a new collective agreement as the previous agreement expired as of April 1st, 2018. Negotiations have successfully concluded and the Town and APA Local 102 have reached a tentative agreement. The CAO stated that Council has been briefed on the changes from the previous agreement and the information was circulated to Council as part of their agenda package. He noted that APA Local 211 has voted and approved the new agreement during a meeting of the bargaining unit on July 3rd. The agreement’s term will run from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2024.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, the collective agreement between the Town and APA Local 102 with a term from April 1st, 2018 to March 31st, 2024 was ratified and accepted by Council. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS

It was moved by Councillors C. Hinton and W. Talbot, that Council approve for payment the accounts as presented for the month of June, 2019. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councillors W. Talbot and C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Tom Chisholm
Deputy Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO