



# **Town of Truro**

*Public Council Meeting*

*Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.*

*Virtual Meeting via Zoom*

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council took place virtually on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Present: Mayor W.R. (Bill) Mills, Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, 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 C. Thompson

## **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CAO M. Dolter noted an amendment to the Agenda with the addition of three (3) items; unsightly premises, acceptance of working group members under the umbrella of the Diversity Committee and Operation Bluenose which will be captured respectively as items 10 (e), 10 (f) and 10 (g).

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

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a) Draft Public Council Minutes of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, the Minutes for the Public Council Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

## **3. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **a) Public Hearing – 225 William Barnhill Drive**

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, approval to enter into a Development Agreement in relation to a multiple unit residential development consisting of 10 townhouse units, one 4-storey 56 unit building and one 4-storey 55 unit building on lands at 225 William Barnhill Drive, proposed by Marchand Developments Limited, was granted. Motion carried.

A notice will appear in the newspaper advising of a 14-day appeal period.

b) **Public Hearing – 140 Dominion Street**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and B. Kinsman, approval to enter into a Development Agreement in relation to the conversion of the former convent into a multiple unit residential development containing 7 dwelling units on lands at 140 Dominion Street, proposed by Meech Holdings Limited, was granted. Motion carried.

A notice will appear in the newspaper advising of a 14-day appeal period.

4. **PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

a) **Linda MacDonald – co-founder Persons Against Non-State Torture, Human Rights Defender**

Linda MacDonald presented to Council with the ask that the Town and the Truro Police Board prepare a letter to the Premier and Justice Minister requesting a feminist analysis as part of the inquiry in relation to the mass shooting in April. Council agreed for a letter to be sent in support of a feminist analysis.

5. **OLD BUSINESS** – N/A

6. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter reported that one item was discussed in-camera at June's Council Meeting and there are no items to be discussed with Council following today's Public Meeting.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**CAO Report**

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

**Corporate Services Report**

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

**Fire Report**

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

**Planning and Development Report**

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

**Police Report**

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

## **Public Works Report**

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

There was a concern raised regarding Glenwood Drive/Young Street as some driving east are treating it as a two (2) lane street and going around the cars turning left, thus creating a back up of traffic. Councillor B. Kinsman suggested the creation of a right turning lane thereby alleviating traffic congestion. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated he would have the new traffic consultant review and suggest recommendations.

Councillor D. Joseph inquired about the scope of the clean up of Lepper's Brook. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated that it includes the removal of brush out of the stream channel, so it does not impede the flow of the water along with cleaning up any garbage. The Town will carry out the recommendations provided by the consulting Engineer specializing in stream erosion.

Councillor D. Joseph also raised a concern regarding the need for a yield sign near the intersection of Palmer Street and Adam Street by the little league field. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon was not aware the barricade at Palmer was removed and indicated he would address this issue.

Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon advised that the paving schedule for this year along with current asphalt ratings will be posted to the Town's website.

Councillor C. Hinton noted she has been receiving complaints of the dust being created by big trucks by Cameron's Paint on Brunswick Street. Director of Public Works advised that crews spread chloride once a year in which this is scheduled to be done soon. Councillor C. Hinton also indicated the complaint of a pothole on Exhibition Street and sod repairs to a property on Shakira Crescent. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon informed Council that the pothole on Exhibition will be added to the list and will be repaired towards the end of the summer. In relation to the sod repair, the tender was just awarded two (2) weeks ago and so, the contractor will repair in due course.

Councillor C. Hinton also asked for an update on the closure of Louise Street. Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated there were a few issues over the weekend, however, staff are looking at options and will work with the property owners towards a resolution.

Councillor C. Hinton expressed frustration with residents placing large, bulk items at curbside far too early for collection day. CAO M. Dolter stated these instances should be reported by way of a bylaw complaint, in which the Bylaw Enforcement Officer will address with the property owner.

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

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

Councillor C. Hinton raised concerns of biking issues within the Rail Yard as it appears that trails are taking over the ecology of the park in addition to reckless drivers. Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture A. Simms indicated that staff and police continue to monitor the situation, signage has been put in place instructing users to stay on designated trails. Staff continue to educate users to respect signage and yield to pedestrians.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, it was moved that all reports for the month of June 2020 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

## 8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Mayor B. Mills advised there would be no by-election for Ward 2 to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Councillor and Deputy Mayor Tom Chisholm. Residents are encouraged to contact any of the Councillors in other Wards on the interim.

In reference to the upcoming fall municipal election, Deputy Mayor W. Talbot advised that he does not feel door to door campaigning is the way to conduct this election due to the COVID pandemic. Instead, other means of campaigning will take place such as mail outs to residents. It is believed that other local Councillors, as well as those running in other municipalities, will be of the same opinion.

Councillor B. Kinsman raised an issue of illegal dumping as there has been instances where people are using other's dumpsters. A request was made to the Planning Department to put together a 'fact sheet' of the legalities of illegal dumping that can be posted to our website and be made available to landlords. It was noted that signage such as 'for use of tenants only' could assist with the enforcement of illegal dumping.

There was a brief discussion on the Diversity Committee and the African Nova Scotian Strategy Committee. Mayor B. Mills displayed a couple of publications which featured prominent African Nova Scotians and celebrated the culture, history, and traditions of its community. It was also noted that the federal government has granted \$25M for African Nova Scotian communities. Deputy Mayor W. Talbot indicated the Truro community was looking to apply. Mayor B. Mills advised that the Town would be willing to work with the community to produce a similar publication which the cost to do so could potentially be included in the application. The application deadline is July 27<sup>th</sup> and, if required, Town staff can assist. This will be discussed further at the upcoming African Nova Scotian Strategy Committee meeting.

## 9. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – N/A

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### a) In Memory of Councillor & Deputy Mayor Tom Chisholm

At the beginning of the Public Meeting, a moment of silence was observed for our friend and colleague, Tom Chisholm followed by a tribute in his memory.

### b) Announcement of New Deputy Mayor

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was ratified to appoint Councillor Wayne Talbot as the Town's new Deputy Mayor as of June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion carried.

### c) Request for Decision (RFD) – Approval of Funds for RECC Sound Baffles

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor B. Kinsman, it was moved that Council approve the 50% cost share of repairs for the sound baffles at the RECC. The estimated total cost of repair is between \$125,000 and \$170,000. Motion carried.

d) **First Reading of Amendment to ‘Council Meetings’ Bylaw, Bylaw Number B100-004**

The first reading of the Bylaw to amend Bylaw B100-004 relating to Council Meetings took place. The amendment will reflect that Council meetings can be conducted virtually with one or more Council members having the ability to attend by videoconference if approved by Council. The proposed wording of the amendment has been prepared by the Town’s Solicitor.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, it was moved that the second reading of the Bylaw to amend Bylaw B100-004, take place at the Public Council Meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion carried.

e) **Unsightly Premises**

Recently Council has raised concerns over the ‘Dangerous and Unsightly Premises’ Bylaw. Director of Planning, J. Fox presented the proposal of the formation of a ‘Property Standards Committee’.

The Committee’s mandate would be the primary authority to issue orders under the dangerous and unsightly provisions of the MGA and issue orders for repairs, demolitions, clean up, and pest control. This would not include orders in relation to the Solid Waste Bylaw, building code issues or immediate danger issues. The Committee would meet monthly to review bylaw enforcement activities and active files. Legal counsel has reviewed under the MGA and Council has the authority to create such Committee.

Council voted 4-1 in favor of the creation of this Committee.

Terms of reference and proposed policy amendments will be presented to Council at September’s Public Meeting.

f) **Acceptance of Working Group Members (Sub-Committee of the Diversity Committee)**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, the names presented for the working group, under the umbrella of the Diversity Committee, have been accepted with the addition of Councillor D. Joseph. Motion carried.

g) **Operation Bluenose**

Operation Bluenose is a Maritime extension of Capt. Jennifer Casey’s Operation Inspiration built to inspire Canada in these difficult times. Iconic places across the province will be lit up in blue to mark a new chapter and to honor those we have lost. The ask was to light up the Town’s Library in blue for Operation Bluenose each evening from July 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> in which Council agreed the Town should recognize this initiative.

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

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor C. Hinton, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the month of June 2020. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m. Motion carried.

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W. R. (Bill) Mills  
Mayor

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M. Dolter  
CAO

DRAFT