



Town of Truro

Public Council Meeting

Monday, September 14th, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

A regular public meeting of Truro Town Council took place virtually on Monday, September 14th, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Councillor D. Joseph and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, the Agenda was approved as circulated. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Draft Public Council Minutes of July 6th, 2020

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, the minutes for the Public Council Meeting on July 6th, 2020 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

b) Draft Public Hearing Minutes of July 6th, 2020

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Fritz, the minutes for the Public Hearing on July 6th, 2020 were approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. MOTIONS AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS – N/A

4. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – N/A

5. OLD BUSINESS

a) Bylaw Amendment – Council Meetings Bylaw (2nd Reading)

The second reading of the Bylaw to amend Bylaw B100-004 relating to Council Meetings took place. The proposed amendment will reflect that Council meetings can be conducted virtually with one or more Council members having the option 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 Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that Council approve the amendment to the Council Meetings Bylaw thereby providing Council members the option to attend Council meetings virtually by videoconference if approved by Council. Motion carried.

b) **Request for Decision – Property Standards Committee**

At July's Public Meeting, Council approved the creation of a Property Standards Committee to address concerns around the 'Dangerous and Unightly Premises' Bylaw. Director of Planning & Development J. Fox provided an overview of the proposed Committee.

Much discussion took place, in which, it was expressed by some members of Council that this Committee should serve more of an advisory role and perhaps, should even be comprised of only elected officials. It was agreed that the proposed motion be amended to best reflect Council's position.

The proposed motion was amended as follows; be it resolved that the Town establish a Property Standards Committee which will operate through Council's Committee of the Whole. This Committee will review dangerous and unsightly premises complaints and make determinations on the appropriate course of action to resolve issues.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and D. Joseph, it was moved that Council establish a Property Standards Committee that will operate through Council's Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

c) **Request for Decision – Public Education Campaign on Rodents**

Staff has developed educational material to raise awareness and assist property owners to effectively deal with pests and rodents as we move into colder weather. The material is intended to be posted on the Town's social media platforms and website. It was suggested by Council to look at other ways to get this information to a larger audience as not everyone has computer access. CAO M. Dolter indicated that staff will look at other options to circulate the information to residents.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, it was moved that the public education campaign proceed as presented. Motion carried.

6. **IN-CAMERA SUMMARY REPORT**

CAO M. Dolter reported that one item of a legal nature was discussed during an in-camera meeting on August 20th, 2020 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 months of July and August was presented to Council.

Corporate Services Report

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

Fire Report

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

Planning and Development Report

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

Police Report

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

Public Works Report

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

Director of Public Works A. MacKinnon indicated he would review the closure plan of the old landfill site as Councillor B. Kinsman inquired about the planting of trees on the site and potentially disturbing the clay cap covering the landfill contents.

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 Councillors C. Hinton and C. Fritz, it was moved that all reports for the months of July and August 2020 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Mayor B. Mills indicated some residents advised they would not cast their vote in the upcoming municipal election if the only method available was electronic voting. A discussion ensued on whether citizens were being provided with every opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

The idea of providing paper ballots as an option was raised, in which, Councillor D. Joseph proposed a motion, that was seconded by Councillor C. Fritz, whereby the Town would permit and supply up to 5,000 paper ballots at polling station(s) as determined by the Town on October 17th. CAO M. Dolter indicated that it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to arrange for this so close to the election, as well, it would cost an additional \$10,000-\$15,000.

CAO M. Dolter and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot emphasized the ease of voting via telephone should one not have computer or internet access.

After much discussion, the proposed motion was withdrawn by Councillor D. Joseph and C. Fritz.

It was agreed that CAO M. Dolter would have staff explore various promotional/advertising means along with associated costs and report back to Council with a recommendation; specifically to address: where and how to vote, candidate information, voting eligibility and how to make sure one is on the voter's list, and information on the deer plebiscite question.

Councillor B. Kinsman inquired about provincial funding in relation to an innovative tax incentive to stimulate downtown businesses and whether it would benefit any businesses in Truro. CAO M. Dolter and Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter indicated that it had limited applicability and did not provide a lot of opportunity for businesses located in Truro. Director of Corporate Services B. Coulter will prepare an update with details and send to Council as information.

Mayor B. Mills informed Council of the federal government's recent announcement of the country's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program and suggested Town staff look into the parameters of the program. CAO M. Dolter indicated Manager of Economic Development A. Grant will explore.

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

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **CAMA Award Announcement**

Mayor B. Mills congratulated CAO M. Dolter for being recognized by the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators' (CAMA) Long Service Recognition Awards Program for his fifteen years of municipal service in a management capacity and for the part he continues to play in helping to make CAMA the leading organization in fostering and sustaining municipal excellence.

b) **Big Brothers Big Sisters Month Proclamation**

Mayor B. Mills read a Proclamation declaring September 2020 as Big Brothers Big Sisters Month in the Town of Truro.

c) **Right to Know Week Proclamation**

Mayor B. Mills read a Proclamation declaring the week of September 28th, 2020 to October 4th, 2020 as Right to Know Week in the Town of Truro.

d) **Rail Safety Week Proclamation**

Mayor B. Mills read a Proclamation declaring the week of September 21st, 2020 to September 27th, 2020 as Rail Safety Week in the Town of Truro.

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and C. Fritz, it was moved that the three (3) Proclamations recited, as noted above, were accepted by Council as presented. Motion carried.

e) **Bikes and Motorized Mobility Bikes on Sidewalks**

To address recent issues regarding bicycles on sidewalks, CAO M. Dolter confirmed that in Nova Scotia, cyclists have the right to travel on all Nova Scotia roads, unless otherwise posted, and follow the same basic traffic rules as other vehicles. Cyclists are not permitted to ride on sidewalks and must dismount when using marked pedestrian crosswalks.

f) **Request for Decision – Appointment of Development Officer & Heritage Officer**

Director of Planning & Development J. Fox introduced Carla Connolly who was recently hired as the Town's new Development & Heritage Officer.

On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and D. Joseph, it was moved that Carla Connolly be appointed as the Town's Development Officer. Motion carried.

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that Carla Connolly be appointed as the Town's Heritage Officer. Motion carried.

g) **Request for Decision – Acceptance of Monarch Terrace Deed & Street Name**

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and B. Kinsman, it was moved that Council accept the deed for the land identified as Parcel MT on a “Plan of Survey Lots 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and Parcel MT and Showing Parcel R-1; being a Subdivision of Parcel 1, Lands Conveyed to Brentwood Developments Limited.” Motion carried.

On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor C. Fritz, it was moved that Council approve the name “Monarch Terrace” as the new name of Parcel MT on a “Plan of Survey of Lots 1, 2, 8, 9, 10 and Parcel MT and Showing Parcel R-1; being a Subdivision of Parcel 1, Lands Conveyed to Brentwood Developments Limited.” Motion carried.

h) **Request for Decision – Usage of Truro Library Room for African Nova Scotian Community**

On motion of Councillors C. Hinton and C. Fritz, it was moved that Council approve the African Nova Scotian community’s use of the ‘orange meeting room’ in the Colchester-East Hants Public Library. Terms and conditions to be determined. Motion carried.

i) **Request for Decision – Approval for Demolition of 250 Prince Street**

a) On motion of Councillors B. Kinsman and C. Hinton, it was moved that Council declare the property at 250 Prince Street dangerous or unsightly. Motion carried.

b) On motion of Deputy Mayor W. Talbot and Councillor D. Joseph, it was moved that Council order the owner(s) of 250 Prince Street, to, by October 14th, 2020, demolish the house and accessory building on the property and remove the resulting debris, or if the owners do not do so, the Town may demolish the building and the costs of the demolition will be a lien against the property. Motion carried.

j) **Request for Decision – Name Change of Diversity Committee Working Group**

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Hinton, it was moved that Council approve the name change of the Diversity Committee Working Group to the Anti-Racism Working Group. Motion carried.

k) **Request for Decision – Truro Watershed Non-Motorized Archery and Cross Bow Hunting Area**

On motion of Councillors D. Joseph and C. Fritz and endorsed by a vote of 5 to 1 in favor, it was moved that the Town approve special permission to hunt inside the Watershed, with agreement to adhere to the eleven conditions as outlined in the proposed motion. Motion carried.

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

12. **ACCOUNTS**

On motion of Councillor C. Fritz and Deputy Mayor W. Talbot, approval was granted for payment of the accounts for the months of July 2020 and August 2020. Motion carried.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Councillor C. Hinton, it was moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m. Motion carried.

W. R. (Bill) Mills
Mayor

M. Dolter
CAO

DRAFT