

December 12, 2013

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Bob Taylor	
Councillor Christine Blair	District #1
Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District #2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District #3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District #4
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District #5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District #6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District #7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District #8
Councillor Doug MacInnes	District #9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District #10
Councillor Wade Parker	District #11

Moment of Silence

Council Committee observed a moment of silence for Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, who passed away on December 5, 2013.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the agenda for December 12, 2013 be approved with the following additions:

- add Item #9a: Green Bins
- add Item #8a: Councillor Training - 2014 (on table)
- add Item #9b: Economic Development Plan
- add Item #9c: Property Valuation Services Corporation Report.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Stewart

“That the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2013 be approved as circulated.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on November 14, 2013.

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Presentations**North Colchester River Restoration Association**

Representing the North Colchester River Restoration Association were Messrs. Edward Sampson, Perry Swan and Allan Bonnyman.

In the presentation, Mr. Sampson indicated that the Association would like to re-apply for financial support which they have received from the County for the past five years. The Association is now in its 14th year of continuous volunteer habitat restoration in the Waughs and French River watersheds. The Group is recognized as one of Nova Scotia's leading habitat restoration volunteer groups who have given advice to many other similar groups and worked with government agencies and universities on matters that relate to the ecology of their watershed.

Mr. Sampson requested that Council consider providing the same level of support to the Association as has been provided for the past ten years, \$5,000 per year for five years.

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the presentation from the North Colchester River Restoration Association be received; and, that the Association's request for financial support be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Concerned Citizens of Shortts Lake and Colchester County

Mrs. Lydia Sorflaten spoke on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Shortts Lake and Colchester County. The presentation concerned the recent application made by Lafarge Brookfield to Nova Scotia Environment for approval to undertake a test pilot project using waste materials from fracking in their cement making process. The Citizens of Shortts Lake feel there are too many unanswered questions about the environmental, human health and other ecological implications of disposing of fracking wastewater in this fashion. The Group feels that the Brookfield plant is old and should be modernized if it is to be considered and approved for the proposed test pilot project.

The Group strongly feels that the Lafarge proposal must be subject to an environmental assessment and requested that Council support their request to Nova Scotia Environment for this assessment to be carried out.

Moved by Councillor Blair

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Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the presentation from the Concerned Citizens of Shortts Lake and Colchester County be received.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the request from the Concerned Citizens of Shortts Lake and Colchester County for support of an environmental assessment on the proposed Lafarge Brookfield test pilot project to use fracking waste materials in their cement making process be referred to Council Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Lafarge Canada Brookfield Plant

Mr. Scarth MacDonnell, Plant Manager for the Lafarge Plant in Brookfield, indicated that he had been invited by Council to make a presentation on the Lafarge proposal to process wastewater in a rotary cement kiln. The request from the County was the result of recent advertisements by Lafarge in the Truro Daily News regarding this proposal.

Highlights of Mr. MacDonnell’s presentation included the following:

- as Plant Manager, he is responsible for what comes in and out of the Plant;
- confirmed that Lafarge has made application to Environment to test treated wastewater in rotary cement kiln;
- the treated wastewater is a by-product of fracking - a process which Lafarge Brookfield is not involved in;
- to date, Lafarge has not received any of this wastewater;
- wastewater coming from Hants County by way of Atlantic Industrial Services in Debert;
- the Plant currently draws water from Shortts lake to control exhaust temperatures from rotary cement kilns;
- recycled wastewater to be injected into kiln in place of water from Shortts Lake - one litre of recycled wastewater replaces one litre of water from Shortts Lake;
- water is then evaporated and released as steam;

- water goes through filtering process to remove any radioactive particles;

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- recycled wastewater surpasses all federal and provincial guidelines for releasing into environment;
- Nova Scotia Environment has complete inventory of any potential chemicals that could be contained in recycled wastewater;
- Nova Scotia Environment has evaluated technical feasibility of proposal and is fully supportive;
- invited Councillors to tour the Plant.

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the presentation from Lafarge Canada Brookfield be received; and, that Nova Scotia Environment and Atlantic Industrial Services be invited to a future Council meeting to respond to questions regarding the Lafarge proposal to process wastewater in a rotary cement kiln.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Masters recommended that Nova Scotia Environment be asked to bring staff to Council who have the expertise in this area and are able to answer questions on this matter.

ACTION ITEMS

Flood Risk Study - Award of Tender

It was noted that, at a meeting held on November 28, 2013, Council authorized December Council Committee to make a final decision on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That, upon agreement by the Province of Nova Scotia to fund 50% of this project, Council Committee approves the award of the Flood Risk Study to CBCL Limited at a total cost of \$393,925, excluding taxes; and,

That the municipal portion of the cost of the Study, \$196,962, be shared equally between the Town of Truro and the Municipality of Colchester; and,

That, in addition to Colchester’s portion of the cost, \$98,481, an internal contingency of \$10,000 be carried for this study to be spent only on authority of the CAO, source of funds to be the Major Flood Reserve.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Municipal Climate Change Action Plan

Moved by Councillor MacInnes
Seconded by Councillor Blair

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“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan for incorporation into the Municipal Sustainability Plan; and,

That Council write a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources requesting that information be provided concerning coastal mechanics and coastal erosion; and, that a Best Management Practices manual and training for coastal hardening be developed.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Cooper made reference to Page 8 of the Plan and suggested that the municipal unit should be identified for Michelle Newell and Andrew MacKinnon.

**Policy Discussion:
Locating New Public
Roads in Colchester**

Mr. Crawford Macpherson provided a powerpoint presentation in relation to this Action Item. Council is being asked to explore policy options for the management of new municipal roads. There are three key questions being asked for Council’s direction:

- 1) Should Council consider taking over existing private roads upon request?
- 2) Are there locations where the Municipality should not consider accepting new roads?
- 3) Are the municipal standards for private roads too high?

During the presentation, Council identified the following points:

- maintain existing policy for private roads, i.e. brought up to municipal standards before being considered by Municipality;
- requests for takeover of private roads handled on a case-by-case basis;
- acceptance of new public road based on where it is located should not be considered, i.e. urban versus rural;
- cost of taking over and maintaining private roads too high;
- roads in new subdivisions not taken over by Municipality until certain number of lots sold and homes built;
- look at cost sharing with residents requesting takeover of private road;
- look at municipal standards possibly being too high;
- any lots built on should be full-time residents, not seasonal;
- at what point does Municipality consider taking over private roads.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gibbs

“That, based on the feedback received from December Council

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Committee, the policy discussion on new public roads in Colchester be referred to the Planning Advisory Committee.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**Councillor Training
- 2014**

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council approval of April 1 and 2, 2014 as the dates for a Councillor training workshop.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

**INFORMATION
ITEMS**

Green Bins

Councillor Gibbs reported on a phone call he received last week from a resident who puts lime in his green bin to keep away maggots, flies, rats, etc. The resident asked if this information could be put in the County newsletter to share with others who may be having similar problems with their green bins. Staff agreed to refer the suggestion to Waste Management.

**Economic
Development Plan**

Mayor Taylor made reference to a couple of presentations he had recently attended relating to economic development. The Municipality will soon be hiring a new Economic Development Officer and good direction to the incumbent should be provided. Several areas that could be focused on are business retention and expansion, business succession, local ownership, entrepreneurship, immigration, out migration and equalization.

**Property Valuation
Services
Corporation**

Mayor Taylor briefed Council on the recent Property Valuation Services Corporation presentation at the UNSM Fall Conference, specifically the cap assessment program.

Closed Session

Moved by Councillor Gregory
Seconded by Councillor Cavanaugh

“That the meeting go into closed session at 11:00 p.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gibbs
Seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 12:10 a.m.”

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Motion Carried Unanimously.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Cavanaugh
Seconded by Councillor MacInnes

“That the meeting be adjourned at 12:11 a.m.”

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Sheila Arsenault
Recording Secretary