

COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was held in the Courthouse, Truro, Nova Scotia, on Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Deputy Mayor Bill Masters, Chair	District 2
Councillor Geoff Stewart	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4 (arrived late)
Councillor Lloyd Gibbs	District 5
Councillor Bob Pash	District 9
Councillor Tom Taggart	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Ron Cavanaugh	District 8

Others Present

Mr. Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Mark Austin, Interim Economic Development Officer
 Mr. Paul Smith, Senior Planner
 Ms. Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary

Presentations

An Agriculture Opportunity – Land Use Protection and Policy Presenter: Chris van den Heuvel, NS Federation of Agriculture (NSFA)

Mr. van den Heuvel appeared before Council to present on the topic of agriculture in Colchester County. In his presentation, he provided a brief history about the NSFA; information on the NSFA Advisory Committee's mandate, membership and recommendations and goals; key and priority sectors; barriers to growth; implications for Nova Scotia/Colchester; and next steps/ investing in agriculture. The presentation included a number of agricultural facts and statistics.

Discussion was held on next steps such as adopting strong ag-land protection policies in the country including formalization of land bank/trust and enforcement of zero taxation on farmland; creation of strategic plans for agriculture; adopting a pro-agriculture business climate specific to economic development; adopting strong science based approach to agriculture; and, supporting 'buy local'.

Further discussion was held on land banks, change in use tax, employment opportunities, and marketing farming. Council informed Mr. van den Heuvel of the County's Agricultural Committee and the challenge to get volunteers to sit on the Committee.

**Mineral Exploration in the Tatamagouche Watershed
Presenters: Mr. John Perkins and Mr. Gregor Wilson**

Mr. Perkins and Mr. Wilson presented on behalf of Sustainable Northern Nova Scotia (SuNNS), a group of concerned citizens working to ensure sustainable, locally driven economic and community development in Northern Nova Scotia.

The main purpose of tonight's presentation focused on the importance of protecting the watersheds as it relates to gold mining and mineral exploration in the Cobequid Mountains. Their detailed presentation provided information on environmental risks and other impacts of gold mining and stressed that having Best Management Practices in place is not good enough. The group is requesting that Council work with other counties to develop a sustainability plan for the North Shore; formerly request the Department of Natural Resources to cancel the Request for Proposals or at least delay for a minimum of one year; and, to pursue legal protection of the watersheds.

Discussion was held on the importance of Council hearing from both sides of the issue in order to make an informed decision. Additionally, it was noted this does not fall within municipal jurisdiction. The CAO advised that motions are not made at presentation meetings and that a formal request should be put in writing for Council consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary