

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars on Thursday, January 13, 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Deputy Mayor Stewart acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corp. Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Peter McCracken, Manager of Strategic Priorities & Corporate Planning
 Jeanette Himmelman, Systems Analyst
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the agenda be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the minutes of the meetings held on December 7 and 9, 2021 and January 4, 2022, be approved with the correction of the date on the December 7th Presentation minutes.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS**Policy Amendments Concerning Planning Advisory Committee Membership**

Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, provided a brief recap of the proposed amendments to Policies relative to the membership of Planning Advisory Committees. At their November Council meeting, authority was granted to January Council Committee to approve these amendments which

were presented and discussed in detail at the December 9th Council Committee meeting.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the Policy to Establish the Tatamagouche Planning Advisory Committee be repealed and incorporated into the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy; and,

That amendments to the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy relative to the appointment of Village Commission representatives be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Flood Policy Amendments

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that the proposed amendments to the Small Flood Reduction Projects Policy, which relate to changes to limit the cap to projects where a primary residence is being protected, were presented at the December Committee meeting. At that time, Council indicated they would like to have a definition for principal residence included in the Policy. The definition was added as distributed in the package for this evening’s meeting.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the proposed changes to the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Committee Vacancies

Mayor Blair, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report and recommendations from the meeting held on January 10, 2022, noting that November Council granted authority to January Committee to approve appointments to Committees.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council appoint Councillor Boutilier to the Northern Region Solid Waste Committee; Councillor Patton to the Debert Business Park Advisory Committee; Mayor Blair to the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; and, Councillor Lomond to the Rural Internet Working Committee.

AND

That Council appoint Councillor Lomond to the Library Board and Sewer Use Appeals Committee; Councillor MacKenzie to the Flood Advisory Committee; and, that the remaining vacancy on the Flood Advisory Committee be readvertised amongst Council members.

AND

That Council appoint Mark LeFresne to the Tatamagouche Source Water Protection Advisory Committee; Peter Dellewell as a business representative and Beth MacMichael as a citizen representative to the Debert Source Water Protection Advisory Committee; and, Ted Martin to the Central Colchester Planning Advisory Committee.” Carried unanimously.

2022-23 Schedule of Meetings

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, presented the proposed schedule of meetings for fiscal 2022-23 which included regular monthly Presentation, Council Committee and Council meetings as well as proposed budget related meeting dates. A copy of the schedule was included in the package for review and consideration.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the schedule of meetings for fiscal 2022-23 be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Proclamation Request #1792 Project

A request was received in December via email for a proclamation for #1792 Project. Support for diversity was expressed, however, Council indicated that they were not familiar with this Project and had some concern with proclaiming without having more information.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the request for a proclamation for #1792 Project be received for information.” Motion carried with Mayor Blair opposed.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Salmon River School Property Update**

Mr. Smith provided an update on the former Salmon River School Property, specifically on the status of community engagement efforts and results of the survey. The compiled survey results are available on the Municipality’s website for viewing. Next steps of the process is the community open house sessions which were originally planned for mid-January. However, due to the recent surge of Covid cases and associated restrictions as directed by Nova Scotia Public Health, it is not possible to proceed as planned. Staff will monitor Public Health directives with hopes to host the sessions in mid-February.

Brief discussion was held on the number of survey responses received; the mailing procedures for the placards, the number mailed and the catchment area. Mr. Smith indicated he would provide the area Councillor with a copy of the map.

Art Purchase Program Update

Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager, provided an update on the Art Purchase Program. In June of 2021, Council approved deferring the event until Winter 2022 and at the same time directed staff to investigate the RECC as an alternative venue to host the event. The NSCC is the other preferred venue.

Due to current Covid restrictions, facilities are not being permitted to host more than 10 people indoors. Additionally, the NSCC is not permitting outside groups use of their facility at this time due to Covid. Staff hope to be able to host the event in the Spring for the 2020 and 2021 missed events and be back on regular schedule for 2022 in November.

Director’s Report

A report from the Director of Corporate Services was circulated in the package for tonight’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the meeting go into closed session at 6:42 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:57 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Biosolids Contract

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that staff be authorized to enter into an agreement with Envirem Organics Inc. for the hauling and disposal of biosolids for the 2022 calendar year.” Motion carried with Councillor Boutilier opposed.

Negotiations – Land Sale, Debert

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That authority be granted to the Mayor and CAO to execute a purchase and sale agreement consistent with that presented to Council in closed session and as recommended by Legal Counsel.” Motion carried with Councillor Boutilier opposed.

Personnel/Legal Advice

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council defer the adoption of the Covid Vaccination Policy to the end of the month to allow staff to make further amendments to implement a mandatory vaccine.” Carried unanimously.

Rob Simonds, CAO, advised that the proposed Policy as originally presented in December applied to both Council and staff. As staff look to amend the draft Policy for staff, Council does not have the same latitude of provisions for Council as they do with staff. Therefore, it may require separation of Council and staff in the Policy, with advice and guidance from Legal Counsel.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:08 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary