

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, May 12, 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 (virtually)
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
 Peter McCracken, Manager, Corporate Planning & Strategic Initiatives
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Hilary Paquet, Parks and Trails Coordinator
 Tim Smith, IT Manager

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the agenda be approved with the following addition:

- Item No. 11b, Joint Cumberland-Colchester Meeting regarding Geopark.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meetings held on April 11, 13, 19&25, and May 3, 2022, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS

Safe Restart Funding – Arenas

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, provided a brief introduction of this item including background information on the Safe Restart Funding; eligibility of arenas; funds received and remaining balance; breakdown of financial information provided by arenas; and, options for consideration. Staff recommend funding 50% of requested amounts now, with the possibility of additional funding at a later date pending Covid-19 conditions.

Discussion was held on Covid-19 being unpredictable and possible future needs for municipal use; process for review of claims submitted by arenas; varied amounts being claimed; urgency of need and status of arenas; types of lost revenues; and retaining the balance of funds for internal purposes.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council proceeding with 100% of the calculated impact.” Carried unanimously.

Temporary Borrowing Resolution

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of this item which included information pertaining to FCM funding received for capital projects over the next five years; Colchester’s required contribution toward these projects; and, requirements to demonstrate ability to fund the projects via a Temporary Borrowing Resolution. Projects include the Tidal Bore Road multi-use Pathway (MUP), Brookfield and Hilden Sidewalks, Pictou Road/Croweland Drive MUP, and the most significant project, the Fundy Discovery Site Bridge.

It was noted that at their meeting on April 28, 2022, authority was granted to May Committee to approve this Temporary Borrowing Resolution.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That Council approves that the Municipality of Colchester request a Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount of \$3,764,321; and,

That the Mayor and CAO be authorized to sign the Temporary Borrowing Resolution, as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Heart’s Haven Memorial Park

Councillors Benoit and Lomond recused themselves from the discussion on the Heart’s Haven Memorial Park.

Discussion on the Heart’s Haven Memorial Park was tabled at the March 31st meeting. Deputy Mayor Stewart advised that a motion is required to lift the tabled motion.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the motion to table discussion on the Heart’s Haven Memorial Park be lifted.” Carried unanimously.

Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer, advised that at the April Committee meeting, an item was brought forward seeking approval of extents of the Heart’s Haven Memorial Park (HHMP). At that time, discussion was held on the impacts the HHMP would have on Debert Business Park, including

location of a future rail spur. Since that time, staff have consulted with CN Rail and determined there are alternative options for rerouting the spur line.

Included as part of her presentation was details on rerouting the spur line including associated costs and responsibilities of costs; and, various options for extents and footprints of the HHMP for Council consideration. All options capture the expectations and original intents of the HHMP. Ms. Mantin also advised that all funding goals have been met and the families and community are eager to start construction as soon as possible.

It was noted that at their meeting on April 28, 2022, authority was granted to May Committee to make a decision on the Heart's Haven Memorial Park.

Alternate Chair Cooper assumed the role of Chair to allow the Deputy Mayor to speak on this item.

Referring to the option of a 12.52-acre footprint, the Deputy Mayor requested verification that this option would not inhibit a future rail spur and that it would not affect the memorial sites. Ms. Mantin confirmed that was correct.

Discussion was held on who would be responsible for costs of the rail spur; requirements for an above grade crossing; buffers in each of the options; trails in the HHMP; maintenance of the Park and staff capacity; and ownership of Park.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council approves an area of approximately 12.52 acres (50,666 m²), frontage of 1280 feet (390 m), and depth of 47 feet (146 m) for the Hearts Haven Memorial Park, Debert.” Carried unanimously.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

Lower Truro Spring Parking Lot Paving

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, presented this item which included information on the property, existing leases, past issues concerning traffic, condition of parking lot, and allocation of funds in the budget for potential future paving.

Brief discussion was held on the ownership of the property; possible purchase of lands; concerns regarding ownership and liability; no interest in paving a lot that is not owned by the Municipality; what is required to maintain the lot and who would carry out the work; the need to maintain the parking lot; and, reviewing again once the current lease is up.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the parking lot at the Lower Truro Spring be maintained status quo until the current lease expires; and,

That the \$20,000 be put in the Special Operating Reserve for possible future use.” Carried unanimously.

Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law Amendment

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer, indicated that this item is in relation to the issue of the tractor trailer parking on Fenwood Avenue. The Municipal Solicitor has explored legal options to enable us to deal with these types of issues and recommends an amendment to the Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law to incorporate the authority under Section 318 of the Municipal Government Act. If Council is amenable to this, an Action Item to amend the By-law will be brought forward at the end of the month for First Reading.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That staff be directed to bring forward the amendments to the Neighbourhood Nuisance By-law, as presented, at the end of the month for First Reading.” Carried unanimously.

Colchester Courage Award Policy

Council previously directed staff to investigate a Colchester Courage Award Policy. Mr. Trefry presented a draft policy for Council consideration. Highlights of the Policy include definitions; eligibility; nominations and process; and, award and presentations.

Concern was expressed regarding timeframe for nominations. Two years may be limiting and there needs to be flexibility, especially in the inaugural year. Maintaining confidentiality of nominations was also discussed and was suggested that it be incorporated into the Policy if possible.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That staff be directed to bring back amendments as discussed, at the end of month Council meeting.” Carried unanimously.

TAAC Revitalization Project

At their May 3rd Council Committee presentation meeting, Council referred the presentation from Brian Wood on the TAAC Revitalization Project to Committee for discussion.

Alternate Chair Cooper assumed the role of Chair to allow the Deputy Mayor to address this item.

During debate, Council discussed the funding conditions of the original approved funding of \$310,000 and the caveat that Colchester would have no responsibility for operating costs or deficits; concerns with increased funding totalling \$500,000; and providing funding over a number of years.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Stewart and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends that Council support the TAAC Revitalization Project in the amount of \$350,000 over three years with the same conditions of the original approved funding in 2018; and,

That progress reports on the project be provided on a regular basis.” Carried unanimously.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor resumed the role of Chair.

**Joint Cumberland-Colchester
Meeting re: Geopark**

Mayor Blair indicated that approval is being sought to proceed with a Joint Cumberland-Colchester meeting for the purpose of providing an update on the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. Board of Directors feel it would be beneficial for both Councils to receive the update at the same time. With existing schedules in May and June, a date in August may be looked at.

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That dates and venues for a Joint Cumberland-Colchester Council meeting be explored.”

It was suggested that this meeting could also be opportunity to receive and update on the rural broadband project.

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Council Proceedings and
Committees Policy – Robert’s
Rules of Order**

This item provides an update on previous directive of Council to have Robert’s Rules of Order incorporated into the Council Proceedings and Committees Policy and ensuring there are no conflicts in doing so within the Policy. Staff is working in consultation with the Municipal Solicitor’s office on a comparison chart that will identify changes to Council proceedings that would result if Robert’s Rules of Order were to be introduced. When complete, the comparison will be brought before Council for consideration.

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 Gregory and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting go into closed session at 7:52 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Patton

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 8:23 pm.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Tracey Venio
Recording Secretary