

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars and in-person on February 9, 2023, 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	(<i>virtually</i>)
Cllr. Laurie Sandeson	District 2 (<i>virtually</i>)
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Cllr. Mike Cooper	District 4
Cllr. Tim Johnson	District 5
Cllr. Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Cllr. Michael Gregory	District 7 (<i>virtually</i>)
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9
Cllr. Victoria Lomond	District 10
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11

Regrets

Cllr. Eric Boutilier	District 1
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Phillip Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Devin Trefry, Research Policy & Community Engagement Officer
 Pam Macintosh, Manager of Planning Services
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support
 Ishamar Senior-Gentles, Environmental and Education Officer

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item #7b – African Heritage Month; and
- Remove Item #8.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meetings held on October 4 and November 8, 2022, and January 3 and 12, 2023, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS**Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program**

Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services, presented the proposed amendments to the Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program Policy advising that the rebate amounts are reviewed and adjusted to reflect annual CPI. The adjustments for this year resulted in a 7.7% increase to thresholds and rebate amounts.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council amended Low Income Municipal Tax Assistance Program for 2023 be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Colchester Clean Litter Program

Ishamar Senior Gentles, Environmental and Education Officer, gave a presentation on the 2022 Colchester Clean Program. Highlights of the presentation included program details, application process, eligibility, partnerships, number of participants, presentations of awards, and overall results of the Program. Staff is seeking directive on continuing the program for 2023. Estimated costs for 2023 are \$9,650.

Discussion was held on looking into grants to support the program; increasing the number of participants receiving early bird monetary awards and/or reducing the amount and disbursing to more groups; costs for radio advertising and opportunity for sponsorships; other possible sponsorship opportunities from a local Debert company; litter pickers and summer students; and overall support for the Program. It was cautioned that many community groups already contribute to clean-up efforts as it is the right thing to do and expanding the number of monetary awards could take away from that.

Moved by Councillor Blair and seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Colchester Clean Program be continued for 2023.” Carried unanimously.

Municipal Boundary Review

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer, provided an overview of the 2022 Municipal Boundary Review Study. Included in the presentation was a recap of staff undertakings, directives of Council, the public consultation process and the results of the second phase of the public consultation. This consultation involved a questionnaire regarding the possibility of changing boundaries in Districts 6, 8, & 11, to improve voter parity in the areas that were over/under the suggested allowable 10% variance. Responses were received from 13% of those contacted by way of direct mailout. Of the respondents, 32% agreed with the proposed boundary changes, 17% were opposed, and 51% did not have a preference. Based on the research and public consultations, staff feel the draft Study supports an application to the NS Utility and Review Board to maintain the same number councillors and districts in the Municipality and changing the polling district boundaries as outlined through the public consultation process.

It was noted that at their meeting on January 26, 2023, Council granted authority to February Council Committee to make a final decision on the 2022 Municipal Boundary Review.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

“That Council Committee approve the Boundary Review Study as presented and authorizes the Mayor and CAO to sign the necessary documentation to submit to the NS Utility and Review Board.” Carried unanimously.

African Heritage Month

Councillor Sandeson advised that a call was received from a constituent in the Truro Heights area asking why the Municipality does not do anything to recognize African Heritage Month. The Town does a fair bit throughout the month of February. It was noted that no request was received by the Municipality for a proclamation. Although it may be too late to do planning for this year, it should be looked into for future years.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee be directed to investigate initiatives to support African Heritage Month.” Carried unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Regional Marketing Levy

Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer, provided an update on the implementation of the Regional Tourism Marketing Levy including information on the legislation passed in November 2022 which allows municipal councils to impose a marketing levy at recognized accommodation providers; highlights of the legislation; composition of the working group; and, collaborative efforts to date. The working group is developing a governance model and board composition for the Regional Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) that will be brought forward to respective Councils for consideration. Also, the group is working on a draft by-law to advance to Council for First Reading, with March as the target date. It is hoped that the marketing levy will be in place with collection of funds to begin by September 2023.

Brief discussion was held on funding amount expected from the levy; the composition of the working group specific to the RECC General Manager and possible inclusion of a representative from the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark; TCPEP involvement in the working group; and importance of maintaining control of funds collected.

Post-Fiona Tree & Brush Clean-up

This information item provided Council with a summary on the post-Fiona tree and brush debris collection project including a detailed outline of the planning and operations of the project. Also included was project stats comprised of kilometers and civic addresses covered; total number of dump truck loads and tonnage collected; total internal and external costs; duration and total number of collection days; and, staff resources utilized.

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 Parker and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That the meeting go into closed session at 6:49 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the meeting reconvene in open session at 7:02 pm.” Carried unanimously.

**Personnel – Manager of
Reduction and Recovery
Operations Position**

Moved by Mayor Blair and seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the creation of the Manager of Reduction and Recovery Operations be approved at Range 10 of the Non-union Salary Scale; and,

That the positions of Waste Reduction Manager and Materials Recovery Facility Manager be removed.” Carried unanimously.

**Personnel – Engineering
Technician to GIS Technician**

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that one Public Works Engineering Technician position be converted to a GIS Technician position, still to be housed within Public Works; and,

That this position fall into the existing Range 5.1 for GIS Technicians of the Municipality’s Non-union Salary Scales.” Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That the meeting adjourn at 7:04 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary