

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 May 16, 2024, 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	
Cllr. Eric Boutilier	District 1
Cllr. Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Cllr. Mike Cooper	District 4 (<i>arrived at 6:05 pm</i>)
Cllr. Tim Johnson	District 5
Cllr. Karen MacKenzie	District 6 (<i>virtual</i>)
Cllr. Michael Gregory	District 7
Cllr. Lisa Patton	District 8 (<i>virtual</i>)
Cllr. Marie Benoit	District 9 (<i>virtual</i>)
Cllr. Victoria Lomond	District 10
Cllr. Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Dan Troke, Chief Administrative Officer
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corporate Services
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Phil Redden, Director of Solid Waste
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy, and Community Engagement Officer
 Pam Macintosh, Manager of Planning Services
 Kaela MacLellan, Project Engineer
 Tim Smith, Manager of Information Services

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Sandeson, seconded by Councillor Lomond

“That the agenda be approved with the following addition:

- Item 12b, Willow Church Cemetery Society.” Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Councillor Johnson

“That the minutes of the meetings held on March 18&26, April 11, and April 16&22, 2024, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS

Forest Management Plan Update

Pam Macintosh, Manager of Planning Services, advised that a long-term forest management plan for municipally owned lands was previously identified and following an RFP, Forest Resources Consultants Inc. (FRC Inc.) was awarded the work. Sandy Manley and Peter Neily from FRC Inc. were in attendance to present an Ecologically Based Forest Management Plan.

Highlights of the plan included maps and locations of studied areas, current conditions, damages as a result of Hurricane Fiona, opportunities for forest management, fire risk management considerations, ecological park management, and benefits of reforestation. A complete copy of the Plan and Executive Summary were included in the package for the Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Gregory

“That Council Committee recommends to Council that the Forest Management Plan be accepted as presented; and

That staff be instructed to proceed with the implementation of the Plan and act on priority actions like Fiona Salvage Cutting and Planting (reforestation) as part of ongoing activities of Recreation Services staff; and,

That staff also proceed over the next 1 – 5 years with annual/seasonal schedule of activities as part of forest management planning, the cost of which will be highlighted in annual maintenance budgets.” Carried unanimously.

Remuneration for Council By-law Review

Devin Trefry, Research Policy and Community Engagement Officer, advised that Section 9 of the Remuneration for Council By-law requires a review of the By-law at least two months prior to the Municipal Election.

As a result of changes to Canadian Tax Law around allowable expenses in 2017, a remuneration review was conducted and amendments were made to remuneration amounts in 2019, with a calculation for remuneration adjustments annually based on CPI. Included in the Action Item was remuneration information for neighbouring and comparable municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Cooper

“That Council Committee recommends that the remuneration for Council maintain status quo, with CPI adjustments as outlined in the current By-law.” Carried unanimously.

NS Stampede Event Funding Request

Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer, advised that the Central NS Civic Centre Society (CNSCCS) is requesting a contribution in the amount of \$75,000 for the upcoming NS Stampede Event. A brief overview was provided including other funding contributions received/confirmed, a detailed budget for the event as provided by CNSCCS, Council’s approved budget for major events under Economic Development, and options for Council consideration.

Discussion was held on matching funds being required to receive Provincial and ACOA funding; overall support for providing funding for the event; benefits of maintaining control of use of funds; concerns of staff resources implications; sponsoring specific events throughout the course of the event; and working collaboratively with the RECC and the Town of Truro on use of funds.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier, seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends that the funding request from the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Society in the amount of \$75,000 for the NS

Stampede be approved, contingent on equal contributions from the Town of Truro, and that funds be retained internally with staff proposing a detailed plan for the use of the funds.” Carried unanimously.

Sewer Boundaries

Kaela MacLellan, Project Engineer, advised that this item is to re-confirm sewer serviced boundaries for various communities, excluding Debert. An overview was provided including information on the 1993 Service Delivery Strategy and changes over the last couple of decades as approved by Council. However, it was noted that one sewer serviced area, Summer Hill Place and Rosway Lane was missed in error and staff is requesting that Council approve this boundary extension.

Discussion was held on the process for the recently discussed development in North River. Ms. MacLellan indicated that this was brought before Council as it is outside the sewer serviced boundary. Further discussion was held on Onslow growth centre and the Granville Drive sewer extension.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends that Council re-confirm the sewer service boundaries as presented and approves an extension to the Central Colchester Sanitary Sewer Boundary to include Summer Hill Place and Rosway Lane.” Carried unanimously.

Tatamagouche Crosswalk

Ms. MacLellan, provided an update concerning the pedestrian crosswalk on Main Street in Tatamagouche. Based on cost estimates received, the Village of Tatamagouche made a request for support under the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) for the project and Council approved \$20,000 during the budget process for the upgrades. However, following staff review, costs are estimated to be \$44,500. A summary of project costs was provided.

Responding to a question on whether the request for funds was intended to be cost shared with the Village of Tatamagouche, the CAO advised that the request was to cover full costs, but the total cost was underestimated. Discussion was held on the need to upgrades for safety concerns; incorrect information being provided to the Village by Nova Scotia Public Works; overall work required for the project; and, having sufficient funds available under the CCBF.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Boutilier

“That Council Committee recommends that the request from the Village of Tatamagouche for upgrades to the pedestrian crosswalk on Main Street be supported at a maximum amount of \$20,000, as per the placeholder in the approved budget.”

Moved by Mayor Blair, seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the motion on funding for the Village of Tatamagouche crosswalk be tabled.” Motion defeated (Deputy Mayor Stewart, Councillors Boutilier, Cooper, Johnson, and Parker opposed)

The motion to table being defeated, the original motion was voted on and carried with Mayor Blair and Councillor Sandeson opposed.

**Fundy Discovery Site Bridge –
Update and Future Direction**

Paul Smith, Director of Community Development, indicated that this item is to provide information on the tender results for the Fundy Discovery Site Bridge and seek future direction on the project. Project information to date was provided including eligibility and amounts for external funding; amounts approved in the capital budget; initial tender results being significantly over budget; direction of Council to re-tender with modifications; and, the results of the retendered project, which still are significantly over budget. Options moving forward were presented along with staff recommendations.

Lengthy discussion was held on the extensive timelines surrounding this project; whether the project itself and overall timing is plausible; the FDS Bridge being a key component of the Active Transportation Network; external funding opportunities; and project being a wish vs. a need.

Moved by Councillor Sandeson and seconded by Mayor Blair

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the tender for the Fundy Discovery Site pedestrian bridge not be awarded and that staff be instructed to investigate other cost-effective design options as well as additional funding programs that will bring the project more in line with the established budget.” Motion carried (*Councillors Johnson, Gregory and Lomond opposed*).

INFORMATION ITEMS

**Process for Notification for
Large Developments**

Following previous discussion and recent approval of amendments to the Land Lease Development By-law, Council expressed concern relative to the notification process to both Council and the public, regarding large scale development in unzoned areas in the Municipality. This Information Item outlines communication procedures to be followed by staff for such developments. Notification requirements as specified in the MGA for planning applications and development agreements in zoned areas will continue to be followed.

**Geopark – Update on Staffing
and Revalidation**

At the request of Council at a previous meeting, this item provided an update from the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark Society Board regarding concerns related to addressing staffing and revalidation/yellow card status.

**Willow Church Cemetery
Society**

Councillor Gregory advised that he would like to recognize the Willow Church Cemetery Society, who is receiving an Achievement Award this evening from the Colchester Historical Society at their annual Heritage Night Celebration. This award is for their work on the preservation and heritage registration of the Willow Church Cemetery in Waughs River.

Director’s Report

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

A point of clarification was noted on the Salmon River School Property. The residential component of this development, as approved by Council, is for 40% of the 16-acre property rather than 50%.

RCMP Report

A monthly report from the Colchester County District RCMP was circulated in the package for this evening’s meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Lomond

“That the meeting adjourn at 8:28 pm.” Carried unanimously.

Tracey Veno
Recording Secretary