

COUNCIL COMMITTEE – PRESENTATION MEETING

The Council Committee/Presentations Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually via Zoom Webinars and in person, on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, it was 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 Paul Weatherby	District 1
Deputy Mayor Laurie Sandeson, Chair	District 2
Councillor Sheldon Richardson	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Nigel Leggett	District 6
Councillor Sherry Martell	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Charlene Fletcher	District 10
Councillor Allan Kennedy	District 11

Others Present

Dan Troke, CAO
 Suzanne Graham, Recording Secretary
 Tim Smith, Manager of Computer and Information Systems (for Technical Support)
 Jenn Martin, Economic Development Officer
 Craig Burgess, Manager of Recreation

Colchester Historeum Museum and Archives Ryan MacLellan and Doreen LeBlanc-Walker

Mr. MacLellan and Ms. Leblanc-Walker appeared before Council to request an increase in their annual grant, from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Included in the presentation was information on the Historeum, a not for profit dedicated to preserving the history of Colchester County. The Historeum is governed by the Colchester Historical Society and is open year round. They employ two full time staff, three part time staff, 1 contract staff and two custodians from STEPs on Arthur. Unfortunately the Historiem has been running a deficit for the last several years. They are doing what they can to fundraise and save money where they can. Detailed budget and audited financial statements were distributed to Council. Their annual grant from the County is \$10,000. From time to time that amount was increased, but only for a year. They are now asking for a permanent increase to \$15,000. They will also be asking the Town of Truro for an increase.

Discussion was held on:

- Any space concerns;
- How they keep the records etc. safe;
- How they plan to make up for the current year deficit; and
- How much the Town of Truro gives annually.

Moved by Councilor Weatherby, seconded by Councillor Martell

“That the presentation be accepted as presented.” Carried unanimously. Carried.

TAAC Revitalization Project
Brian Wood

Mr. Wood appeared before Council to request additional funding for the TAAC grounds project.

Included in the presentation was background information on the project and fundraising efforts as well as their current situation. The fundraising committee was formed 10 years ago. At that time, the project was estimated at \$8.7m. Due to inflation, Covid and other delays, the new project cost is just over \$11m. Between Federal and Provincial grants, grants from the Town and County and private donations, they have raised \$10.3m. At this time, they shortfall amounts to \$827, 829. The committee is requesting an additional \$510,000 from the County. The remaining funds would come from donations.

Discussion was held on:

- Whether the additional funding would fully complete both project sites;
- How many people are on the fundraising committee;
- Whether they have tried to go back to the Federal or Provincial governments to request additional grant money;
- Who will manage the facilities;
- Whether or not they are requesting additional funding from the Town of Truro.

Moved by Councillor Patton, seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the presentation be accepted as presented.” Carried unanimously

Strategic Tourism Expansion Project (STEP)
Richard Innes

Mr. Innes appeared before Council to provide an update on the Strategic Tourism Expansion Project.

Included in the presentation was:

- Project planning context – they used an asset-based community tourism development plan. This focuses on what we have vs. what we need and allows us to identify what enhances our ability to attract visitors from away.
- Findings and observations – the region is starting from a position of strength, but “legendary” experiences are needed.
- Themes that set us apart from other areas – vibrant towns, villages and First Nations; coastal and rural landscapes; four-season outdoor recreation; meetings, conferences, festivals and events.
- 12 recommended steps.

Discussion was held on:

- How we get people to visit when we don’t have the accommodation space;
- What a legendary experience is;

- Expected annual funds received from the marketing levy.

Moved by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Leggett

“That the presentation be accepted as presented.”

Adjournment

On a motion by Councillor Patton, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Suzanne Graham
Recording Secretary