

## FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held in Council Chambers on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:00 am.

- Present:** Councillor Tim Johnson, Chair  
Councillor Mike Cooper  
Mayor Christine Blair
- Hank Kolstee, Citizen Representative  
Robert Monk, Citizen Representative
- Michelle Newell, Director of Public Works  
Rod MacLennan, Project Supervisor/Consultant
- Charlotte Sullivan, Environmental Inspector, NS Environment
- Absent:** Councillor Eric Boutilier  
Carl Esau, Manager, Land Protection, Department of Agriculture
- Introductions:** Introductions were made with newly appointed members.
- Review of Committee Correspondence:** Copies of all Committee Correspondence were distributed with the package including the Terms of Reference, the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy, Request for Work Application, Cost Sharing Agreement and Release from Liability Form. There were no questions or comments.
- Selection of Vice Chair:** Councillor Cooper nominated Councillor Boutilier for Vice Chair. No other nominations were received.
- Moved by: Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by: Hank Kolstee
- “That Councillor Boutilier be appointed as Vice Chair of the Flood Advisory Committee.”
- Motion carried.
- (In the absence of Councillor Boutilier, his acceptance of the position will need to be approved at the next meeting).*
- Approval of Agenda:** An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee’s review and approval.
- Moved by: Hank Kolstee  
Seconded by: Mayor Blair
- “That the agenda be approved as presented.”
- Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the meeting held on September 23, 2020 were circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee

Seconded by: Robert Monk

"That the Minutes from the meeting on September 23, 2020 be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

None.

**Outstanding Stormwater/Other Requests:**

Holding Pond, Exhibition Grounds:

- Discussed at last meeting
- Concerns with debris at the outlet of the pond and a buildup of trees and grass
- Water is being held back creating a potential for flooding
- Michelle to confirm with NSE if this is a watercourse
- Rod to do another site visit with Charlie MacInnis
- Keep on list and revisit at next meeting with updated information
- Committee to decide later to approach Village and Exhibition Commission for cost sharing
- Material would need to be removed and trucked out
- Approximately 650 ft total
- Cost estimate \$6,000

**New Applications:**

When new applications are submitted, Rod conducts site visits and determines scope of work and provides updates at the next meeting. The Committee will then determine if the proposed work falls within the Small Flood Damage Reduction Projects Policy.

A new application was received from Cindy Ryan for bank stabilization along the Portapique River. This property could be affected by shoreline erosion under the influence of tidal waters. Rod and Tim will visit the site and determine if it qualifies before the Committee looks at proceeding.

**Review of Projects:**

The following updates were made to the project list:

Portapique Cemetery:

- Remain as pending
- Rod reviewing site in Spring and Fall – no other commitment from the Committee
- Waiting for Cemetery Association to secure funding as the Committee can't take on a project of this size and cost
- This damage is also shoreline related so the project may not fall under the Policy

- Rod and Tim to do a site visit when they do the Ryan site; if confirmed it is tidal related, the Committee will need to remove at the next meeting

Franklin:

- Large bank stabilization project on the North River
- Committee wishes to proceed but only with provincial funding
- Last year, the deadline for the provincial funding program (FRIIP) was missed so will reapply this year

North Colchester River Restoration Association:

- Been on the list as pending since 2010
- Requires 600ft of bank stabilization
- Association was trying to secure funding
- Send correspondence to NCRRA to see if they have secured funds, and to ask of project status.

Moved by: Mayor Blair

Seconded by: Councillor Cooper

“That a letter be sent to the North Colchester River Restoration Association to determine status of project and funding.”

Motion carried.

Johnson:

- Bank stabilization on three sections of Farnham Brook
- Letter sent to Owner who has confirmed he wishes to proceed
- Rod working on environmental approval; if granted work can start in the Spring
- Under policy, property is commercial and would require 50% cost sharing
- Could work out an arrangement of in-kind contribution of rock from Ian Sinclair in place of a financial contribution

Langille:

- Culvert improvements along watercourse in driveway complete

Gaspar Cross Road:

- Swale at back of property complete

Hillcrest Avenue:

- Drainage improvements complete

Moved by: Hank Kolstee

Seconded by: Robert Monk

“That the application submitted by Cindy Ryan be accepted as presented.”

Motion carried.

**Status of Budget:**

To date, approximately \$30,000 has been spent out of the \$100,000 budget. Only anticipated expenses to fiscal year end are remaining consultant stipend fees.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee

Seconded by: Mayor Blair

“That the budget status update be accepted as presented.”

Motion carried.

**Recommendation to Council 2021/2022 Budget:**

Although the budget has been set at \$100,000 for the past few years and not entirely used, the Committee agrees that it would be beneficial to keep it the same. Numerous factors contributed to the use of minimal funds this year including lack of heavy rainfall events, COVID restrictions, and failure to obtain regulatory approvals or funding.

The Franklin property is a large-scale property that even with 50% funds, if approved, under the provincial program, would use a large portion of the budget.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee

Seconded by: Mayor Blair

“That the Flood Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the Committee budget remain at \$100,000 for the 2021/2022 year.”

Motion carried.

**Status of Payments from Property Owners:**

Updates on payments from property owners were included in each meeting package. Since the last meeting, MacGrath has paid his share leaving only one outstanding account. Mr. Johnston has not made a payment since June despite his property taxes being paid in full. In the past, other outstanding accounts were sent to Collections. Flood payments cannot be added to or collected in the same manner as property taxes; instead, a lien is applied against the property.

Moved by: Hank Kolstee

Seconded by: Councillor Cooper

“That a letter be sent to Mr. Johnston regarding his outstanding flood account and that the full amount is due no later than March 31, 2021 or the account will be sent to Collections.”

Motion carried.

**New Business:**

Discussion was held on the watercourse in Old Barns near the church and how a lack of weather events in the past has created a potential

for flooding issues when the channel fills with silt. Any potential channel improvements related to the dykes, aboiteaux, or agricultural lands are the responsibility of Department of Agriculture.

It was suggested that not many residents are aware of the County Flood Advisory program which could be why not many projects are on the current list. In the past, items have been included in the quarterly newsletter outlining completed projects. Committee could look at having something in the newsletter annually while Councillors can continue to let their constituents know.

**Future Meeting Dates:** The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:00am.

**Adjournment:** Moved by: Councillor Cooper  
Seconded by: Hank Kolstee

“That the meeting adjourn at 11:10 am.”

Motion carried.

Crystal Deuille,  
Recording Secretary