

## FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Advisory Committee was held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 9:00 am.

**Present:** Councillor Tim Johnson, Chair  
Mayor Christine Blair  
  
Hank Kolstee, Citizen Representative  
Robert Monk, Citizen Representative  
  
Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works  
Rod MacLennan, Project Supervisor/Consultant  
  
Charlotte Sullivan, NS Environment

**Absent:** Councillor Mike Cooper  
Councillor Eric Boutilier

**Approval of Agenda:** An agenda was prepared and circulated for the Committee's review and approval.

Moved by: Mayor Blair  
Seconded by: Hank Kolstee

"That the agenda be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the meeting held on September 8, 2021 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 8, 2021 be approved as presented."

Motion carried.

**Business Arising from the Minutes:** None.

**New Applications:** A new application was received from Edward and Sandra Parker in Economy. A site visit will be completed and brought back for discussion at the next meeting.

**Review of Projects:** The following updates were made to the project list:

**Portapique Cemetery:**

- Rod to complete a site visit

**Ed Franklin:**

- Small project complete
- Constructed a trench/berm approximately 175ft, and filled with rock so no approvals were required
- FRIIP funding was approved last week for the larger project
- Funding expires in April 2022
- Michelle will request an extension of the funding to 2023, and will ask if current fiscal expenses for the smaller project can be claimed under the FRIIP program.
- Rod to reassess original cost estimate for remaining work

**Johnson:**

- At last meeting, Committee wanted a letter sent to confirm project status, but a letter was already sent a year ago and owner wanted to proceed then
- Michelle to email Ian Sinclair

**Holding Pond, Exhibition Grounds:**

- Manual cleanup of outlet, repair/replacement of culverts complete
- Ran into a few issues with culverts and other infrastructure; project estimated to be \$5K over budget

**Patterson:**

- Project complete except for some maintenance from damage caused by heavy rains
- Placement of a load of rock will repair the damage
- Completed under budget

**MacNutt:**

- Project complete

**Review of Fee Structure:**

Further discussion was held on the policy's fee structure as there was no quorum last meeting to make any decisions or changes. The Committee looked at various options including the following:

- Remove the \$2,500 cap, apply it to certain situations or modify it depending on the situation;
- Look at applicant's ability to pay \$2,500;
- Apply 25% to all residential properties with no capped amount;
- Base ability and amounts to pay on property assessments; or
- Apply the cap to primary residences only.

While there have been no complaints received regarding the existing policy, there is concern that some property owners are having extensive amounts of work done on their properties for \$2,500 while others are paying a much higher amount. In the past, large projects have been done on residential properties exceeding \$20K while assistance was provided to others for driveway access issues. The

current policy does not differentiate between a structure or lawn at jeopardy on a residential property.

Under the current policy, the Committee already has the authority to pay the full cost of any project but the criteria for cost sharing on residential projects needs to be clearly defined to ensure that a fair process is applied to all projects. If there is too much flexibility in making decisions, issues can arise in determining who can pay and how much.

The Committee agreed that the \$2,500 capped amount should remain and only be applied when protection to primary residences is required. Section 7.b.(iii) could be amended as follows:

“In all cases, and regardless of the total cost of the project, if the property type threatened is residential property, the property owners will not be required to pay more than \$2,500 for the project *should the work be required to protect the primary residence.*”

Michelle will have the solicitor review the suggested policy change and bring back to the next meeting for the Committee to make a recommendation to Council.

**Property Classification**

Property classifications for cost sharing determinations are based on assessment rolls from PVSC. Moving forward, each individual property assessment will be reviewed at the meeting to determine the appropriate level of cost sharing that should be applied. A property will have to be wholly or partially assessed as residential in order for the residential cost sharing limits to be applied.

**New Business:**

An email from Carl Esau was received last week with an update on the salt marsh project. Agriculture is working on lowering the dykes in the north marsh so flooding can begin when the larger tides occur in November. While Agriculture does not have current plans to purchase additional land for salt marsh creation, the Joint Flood Advisory Committee is looking at completing some work on the oxbow on the opposite side of the marsh, but no plans have been finalized yet.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting will be held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

**Adjournment:**

Moved by: Hank Kolstee  
Seconded by: Robert Monk

“That the meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.”

Motion carried.

Crystal Deuville,  
Recording Secretary