
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 5:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
 Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
 Councillor Mary MacLellan
 Councillor Donnie MacDonald
 Councillor Remi Deveau
 Councillor John Dunbar
 Councillor Gary Mattie
 Councillor Bill MacFarlane
 Councillor Harris McNamara
 Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
 Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
 Tammy Feltmate, Director of Sustainable Communities
 Marlene Melanson, Director of Recreation
 Meaghan MacNeil, Active Living Coordinator

Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 5:31pm.

Approval of Agenda

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda. One addition was made:

- L'Arche Community Hub Letter of Support

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Approval of June 1, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 1, 2021 be approved as presented

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes. Councillor McNamara asked whether there were any updates on the travel numbers and areas of usage from Antigonish Community Transit. Staff is still looking into this request.

Delegations

There were no scheduled delegations.

Continuing Business

Active Transportation Network Connector Project Update

Ms. MacNeil provided members of the Committee with an update on the Community Active Transportation Network project, and the connections that are being built to link any gaps in the active transportation routes, with particular focus along the Antigonish Landing Trail, the Mount Cameron neighbourhood, and connections to the Bethany trails and the Town. A map of the project area was reviewed with the group. The study work done by a consultant (WSP) was reviewed, and the phased approach to the project and estimated construction costs were presented as well.

A question was asked about the status of the request for the proposed crossing on Highway 337, and staff provided an update noting communications with Transportation and Active Transit are ongoing. Discussion followed. Ms. MacNeil was thanked for her work on the project.

Facility Allocation Project Update

Ms. Melanson provided an update on the study that was done to look at sports and recreation facility bookings. Together with representatives from Sport Nova Scotia, a partnership of the County, the Town of Antigonish, Strait Regional Centre for Education, St. FX University, and the Ecole acadienne de Pomquet school engaged the services of a consultant to look at the current state of bookings in the community, examples from other communities, and to provide some recommendations for best practices moving forward.

From the report, some high level findings were reviewed for the benefit of the Committee. Looking at and developing policies and procedures for bookings would be the next step in the process. Members of the Committee were then given the opportunity to ask questions. Questions included the number of organizations surveyed, the distribution of time amongst groups, and options for booking software.

Antigonish Wetland Compensation Update

Ms. Feltmate reviewed the memo that was included in the agenda package, which provides the timeline for wetland compensation projects that were submitted and reviewed by the Dexter Nova Alliance as part of the highway twinning project. The most recent update received by staff identified three potential projects, but their location and status cannot be shared with the municipality at this time. Staff is preparing additional options for projects within the County for submission, to keep the priorities identified by Council on their radar.

Members of the Committee asked if staff could find out the amount on money allocated for this phase and phase one of the highway twinning, and timeframe for spending the money. A suggestion was made to have the group from Dexter Nova in to talk to members of Council, to discuss options for investment of the compensation fund within the community where the wetlands are being impacted.

Consideration of Grant Allocation to the St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre

Mr. Horne provided an update on the receipt of the additional information that was requested from the St. Joseph's Lakeside Community Centre. Councillors were provided with the opportunity to ask any questions. Consensus from the Committee was provided to proceed with the grant allocation with the receipt of this information.

Continued Discussion of Beach Access

Mr. Horne referred to the memo included in the agenda package regarding public access to beaches that are accessed via private roads. Councillor MacDonald provided feedback following discussions with residents in his district. Opportunities for providing parking, partnerships with the municipality, and public consultation were topics that were touched on in the discussion. Direction given to staff was to look at options to address the parking and access at Cribbons Point once the residents who are interested in the project provide a written proposal to come to Council, with acknowledgement of the owner of the impacted road.

New Business

2021 Golf Tournament Participation Requests

Mr. Horne provided the Committee with an overview of the fundraising golf tournaments that Council participates in each year in the community. Consensus was given to register for the Chamber of Commerce golf tournament and Chip in Fore St. Martha's tournaments jointly with the Town, and to register for a Tournament Friend sponsorship at the Bonvie MacDonald Rinks to Links tournament as noted in the memo. Councillors will be contacted by staff for registration arrangements.

Community Events

There were no community events to report on.

Additions to the Agenda

L'Arche Support Letter Request

Warden McCarron spoke to a request from L'Arche for an updated letter of support for the Community Hub building that they are planning to construct. Elevations of the proposed building were shared with the Committee.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council provide an updated letter of support to L'Arche for their Community Hub project

Motion Carried

In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss Contract Negotiations at 6:52 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the in-camera session adjourns at 7:19pm.

Motion Carried

Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 7:20pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO