

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, April 16, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor Cathy Moore, Chair, District 5
Mayor Carolyn Bolivar-Getson
Councillor Eric Hustvedt, District 1
Councillor Martin Bell, District 2
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6 (arrived at 9:05 a.m.)
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9
Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Regrets: Councillor Michael Ernst, Vice-Chair. District 8
Councillor Lee Nauss, District 3

Staff: Kevin Malloy, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Joanne Powers, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION - NIL

3. PUBLIC INPUT – NIL

There were no members of the public in attendance to address the Committee.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Minutes of the March 19, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - NIL

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Litter Clean Up Groups in Lunenburg County – Angela Taylor, Outreach & Compliance Officer & Stephanie Smits, Outreach & Communication Supervisor

Ms. Angela Taylor, Outreach & Compliance Officer and Ms. Stephanie Smits, Outreach & Communication Supervisor with the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre, were present at the meeting and provided an overview of their presentation (included in the agenda).

Ms. Smits spoke about various litter cleanup groups in Lunenburg County and provided some background information on the Earth Day Litter Challenge that is taking place this year on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

Councillor Garland arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Taylor talked about the common causes of litter such as rejected garbage, “out-the-window” syndrome and unsecured loads. She discussed that education is limited, but she does go into schools to do educational talks. Ms. Taylor is creating a Litter Committee which will have representatives from the community, from Council, from other organizations and also a Community Police Officer.

A social media campaign will be started to encourage people to report littering, and most importantly, to discourage them from littering in the first place. Ads will be appearing in the newspapers and on social media throughout Region 6.

Several recommendations were passed along to the Committee members:

- Possibly pay groups for cleaning up areas, perhaps by the kilometer
- Put money in the budget for prevention
- Give money to groups registered for Earth Day Cleanups

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Smits left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Engineering Department

Satu Peori, Manager Wastewater Services was in attendance at the meeting.

8.1.1 Amendments to the Shore Drive Wastewater Management District By-law

Ms. Peori presented the report “Amendments to the Shore Drive Wastewater Management District By-law” (included in the agenda package).

Ms. Peori explained that the proposed amendments would provide an option for an additional four properties to connect to the Shore Drive Sewer System in order to comply with the LaHave River Wastewater Management District By-law.

The amendments would also replace the described property boundaries and a large survey map with just a GIS map, and address some of the housekeeping issues to keep current with the Nova Scotia Environment terminology.

There were questions and concerns raised around adding more properties to the Conquerall Bank Wastewater Treatment Plant as it was deemed to already be at capacity. Ms. Peori explained there are issues when there are wet weather events, but the four properties being considered would have absolutely no other option. It was explained that due to upgrades to the Treatment Plant three years ago, more permits are able to be issued.

A motion was made to proceed with the amendments but withdrawn as there was concern with proceeding with the amendment. It was suggested that more information be provided due to the treatment plant already being at capacity.

The Councillor for the area, Councillor Bell, wanted it stated that this item was not placed on the agenda by his request.

Ms. Peori left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

8.2 Administration Department

8.2.1 Strategic Priorities Update

Mr. Dumaresq provided a status update on the 2019/20 Strategic Priorities (included in the agenda package).

Items discussed were:

- Rural High-Speed Internet
- Five-Year Financial Strategy
- LaHave River Straight Pipes
- Roads Strategy
- Fire Services Recruitment and Retention
- Accessibility Plan
- LCLC Governance
- Lyme Disease Response
- Municipal Services Building
- Flood Mitigation

8.3 Western Woodlot Services Cooperative

Patricia Amero, General Manager and Forester; Murray Crouse, Western Woodlot Services Cooperative; and Dale Prest, Climate Forest Company, were in attendance at the meeting.

Ms. Amero provided a brief overview of the Western Woodlot Services Cooperative (presentation included in the agenda package) and a Wood Heat Conversion Analysis Project/Feasibility Study that is underway in conjunction with Mr. Prest.

Ms. Amero reviewed the full range of forest management and operational services offered by the Cooperative and provided membership numbers.

The Cooperative is undertaking a Wood Heat Conversion Analysis Project/Feasibility Study that would investigate new markets for low-grade wood and identify new and existing buildings that show potential for wood heat installations.

Mr. Prest explained the technology and business models around wood heat conversion projects, whereby the modern woodchip boilers use gasification technology. He pointed out that they feel the Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre (LCLC) could be the type of building appropriate for conversion and they would be interested in putting together a case study and proposal for conversion at the LCLC. He explained that the Université Sainte-Anne in Church Point, Nova Scotia, has a supplier/operator model similar to what they feel would be appropriate for the LCLC.

Mr. Crouse, Ms. Amero and Mr. Prest left the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

8.4 Recreation Department

Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation; Laura Barkhouse, Trails & Open Space Coordinator; and Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator were in attendance at the meeting.

8.3.1 Trails Update- Laura Barkhouse, Trails & Open Space Coordinator

Ms. Barkhouse provided an update on the various trail projects that are currently taking place in the Cookville Area near Osprey Village.

Ms. Barkhouse pointed out that the Central Nova ATV Club (CNATV) came before Council a number of years prior to discuss a project that would provide access and a trail for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) that would connect the Naugler Road in Oakhill, from the Adventure Trail, up along Highway 103 to connect to the former Harold Whynot Road to the MODL Osprey Village property.

Currently OHVs are not permitted on the trail in the Town of Bridgewater, but the CNATV Club would like to ensure trail connectivity for all users that come from the direction of Oakhill, which would include from the Halifax area.

The CNATV Club is proposing a trail project that would create a link between the Adventure Trail in Oakhill to the LaHave River Trail in Cookville, and in doing so, would provide safe access to the shops and services in Cookville.

The Club is in an ongoing dialogue with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal to allow travel along the controlled access Highway 103. Similar construction has been permitted elsewhere in the Province.

The CNATV Club is also in the process of requesting access to the Centennial Bridge in the Town of Bridgewater and are looking for a letter of support from MODL. The request is to allow access on the portion of the Centennial Trail that connects Cookville and Hebbville, including access over the bridge which is the only connection between the east and west sides of the LaHave River.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Garland that the Policy & Strategy Committee direct staff to write a letter of support to the Central Nova ATV Club supporting their request to have motorized access over the Centennial Trail section that spans the LaHave River to the Bull Run Trail. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Barkhouse reported that the LaHave River Trail Association has been actively working with landowners to get permission for a trail over their private property, have been actively fundraising

and continue with ongoing construction. They are currently working on the section from Highway 10 past the Mossman Road to the Bruhm Road. Once completed, this will provide a continuous shared-use trail to the Annapolis Valley.

Mr. Barkhouse reported that construction will soon be underway on the Tower Trail which will provide direct access for staff and students from Centre Scolaire de la Rive Sud in Cookville to the LaHave River Trail in Cookville and the Centennial Trail in Bridgewater.

A completed site plan and investigation for trail planning for Osprey Village will get underway this spring. Working with Economic Development, Engineering and Recreation, a route should be clearly established to ensure that siting of the proposed trail will not interfere with any other upcoming plans. This will link the Tower Trail to the Central Nova ATV Club trail projects that link through the Town of Bridgewater and to the rail trail system that is connected to Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Committee expressed support for the Mayor to write a general trail letter to the Minister of the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, copied to the Minister of the Department of Lands & Forestry, reinforcing MODL's support for all the above mentioned projects. It was also recommended that an invitation be extended to the Ministers to tour the various obstacles facing the groups in the development of these trails.

Ms. Payne, Mr. Barkhouse and Ms. Bolivar left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

8.3.2 Central Nova ATV Club – Request for a Letter of Support

As stated in Item 8.3.1.

8.3.3 Sponsorship Ad Request – The Rose Fund Dinner & Auction

Ms. Bolivar presented the request from The Rose Fund Dinner & Auction for a Sponsorship Ad for their community fundraising 10th annual event taking place May 4, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves a Sponsorship Ad request from The Rose Fund's 10th Annual Dinner & Auction in the amount of \$250 for the "Silver" level sponsorship for their community fundraising event taking place May 4, 2019. Carried unanimously.

Ms. Bolivar left the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

9. MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S/COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance was in attendance at the meeting.

9.1 Relationship Between MODL Tax Rebate and Provincial Property Tax Rebate - Councillor Eric Hustvedt

Councillor Hustvedt reported that, as a result of a conversation with a resident, he looked into the relationship between the MODL Property Tax Rebate and the Provincial Seniors' Tax Rebate Program.

Ms. Wentzell advised that the MODL program benefits every homeowner that makes just under \$29,999 per year, whereas the Provincial rebate is only available to seniors who are receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement. Ms. Wentzell could not find a situation ~~where someone would be worse off by applying for both rebates~~ **where a senior in that position would not benefit from applying for both rebates [amended, May 21, 2019].**

10. **ADDED ITEMS - NIL**

11. **IN CAMERA**

12. **NEXT MEETING** – May 21, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business at 11:45 a.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Bell that the meeting adjourn. Carried.