

MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF LUNENBURG
Minutes of a Meeting of
POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE
Held in Council Chambers, 210 Aberdeen Road, Bridgewater, NS
Tuesday, October 15, 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 Lee Nauss, District 3
Councillor John Veinot, District 4
Councillor Claudette Garland, District 6
Councillor Wade Carver, District 7
Councillor Michael Ernst, Vice-Chair, District 8
Councillor Reid Whynot, District 9

Regrets: Councillor Errol Knickle, District 10

Staff: Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer
Alex Dumaresq, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Sherry Conrad, Municipal Clerk
Sarah Kucharski, Communications Officer
Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, RECOGNITION

Councillor Hustvedt extended congratulations to the Broad Cove Community Association for their recent barrel fundraiser which raised approximately \$1,000 for the Association while providing area residents with nearly 100 barrels and several 1000 litre tanks at discount prices. The initiative generated a waiting list for a future sale.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

George Buryani was present as a representative of the Extinction Rebellion Group that, in April, put forward a petition and request that a climate emergency be declared. He updated the Councillors on what actions the public has taken to date on climate crisis issues. He stated that 464 Councils across Canada have now declared climate emergencies and over a dozen cities.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

Councillor Ernst advised he would be declaring a Conflict of Interest for Items 9.3.1 and 9.3.3.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Bell that the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Policy & Strategy Committee meeting be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 Lunenburg, NS and Lueneburg, Germany – Sister Municipalities

Mr. Dumaresq reminded the Committee of the presentation made by a resident of the Municipality requesting that the Municipality of Lunenburg consider becoming a sister community with a similarly spelled community in Germany.

The Committee discussed the merits of such a venture, and it was suggested that it be a joint effort between the Municipality of Lunenburg and the Town of Lunenburg and that the German Heritage Society be asked to be involved as well.

Staff were directed to contact the Germany Heritage Society and the Town of Lunenburg to see if they are interested in partnering with the Municipality in this venture.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 NS Biodiversity Act – NS Lands & Forestry

Bob Petrie, Director of Wildlife, Nova Scotia Lands & Forestry, was in attendance to speak to the Committee about the Nova Scotia Biodiversity Act.

Mr. Petrie gave a presentation, “Biodiversity Stakeholder Consultation Sessions” (circulated with the agenda), highlighting the following points:

- What is Biodiversity?
- Context
- Legislation
- Key Concepts of the Act
- Biodiversity Protection Order
- Biodiversity Management Zones
- Regulatory Authorities
- Offences, Enforcement & Penalties
- Reporting on State of Biodiversity
- Collaborations

Nova Scotia currently has no legislation that identifies biodiversity as a major objective. Mr. Petrie explained all the above noted points and how they tie into the new Biodiversity Act.

Mr. Petrie left the meeting.

8. REFERRALS FROM COUNCIL - NIL

9. STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Merrill, Director of Planning & Development Service; Byung Jun Kang, Planner; Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation; and Tissy Bolivar, Program Coordinator; were in attendance at the meeting.

9.1 Planning Department

9.1.1 Declaring a Climate Emergency

Mr. Merrill provided a presentation on Climate Emergency (attached to the original minutes). He explained that the Extinction Rebellion Group presented to Council in April 2019 and also provided a draft resolution of which staff were directed to further investigate and report on.

Mr. Merrill explained that annual global temperatures are rising significantly and carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are skyrocketing. As a result, there has been an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events and other risks such as drought, hurricanes, forest fires and rising sea levels. All these pose serious threats to our natural environment, our health, our jobs and our economy.

In 2015, Canada along with 194 other countries, adopted the Paris Agreement to combat climate change together. But in October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a Special Report that stated the actions being taken are not enough to limit global warming.

Mr. Merrill advised that municipalities have influence over more than 50% of greenhouse gas emissions and, therefore, are essential to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement. He suggested that the Municipality rejoin the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program which can provide the support required to identify and address local sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Merrill discussed the budget implications and provided probable options in order to achieve the various PCP Milestone levels.

Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council:

- **declare a climate emergency;**
- **approve the Resolution to join the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Government for Sustainability (ICLEI Canada) Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) Program;**
- **work through the milestones of the Partners for Climate Protection Program established by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Local Government for Sustainability (ICLEI); and**
- **add climate emergency as a priority in its Strategic Plan.**

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommend to Council that Municipal Council reinstate a Sustainability Committee for Council.

It was confirmed that the Terms of Reference for the Committee would align with the PCP Program.

Carried unanimously.

9.2 Finance Department

9.2.1 MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy Proposed Amendments re Property of a Deceased Person

Angela Veinot, Accounting Manager, was in attendance.

Ms. Veinot reviewed the report, MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate Policy Proposed Amendments re Property of a Deceased Person” (included in the agenda). She explained that Council was asked if an application for a property tax rebate can be made on behalf of a property owner who is deceased, and the proposed amendments address that request.

Moved by Councillor Nauss, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 Property Tax Rebate as follows:

- 1. Adding the following new subsection 4.1 to Section 4 of Policy MDL-49 “An application may be made on behalf of a deceased property owner if the property owner received the property tax rebate in the previous fiscal year”;**
- 2. Amending Section 1 of the Application attached to Policy MDL-49 by adding the words “or I am making application on behalf of a deceased property owner who received the property tax rebate in the prior fiscal year” at the end of the sentence;**

and hereby gives seven (7) days’ notice of its intention to approve the proposed amendments to Policy MDL-49 at the October 22, 2019 Council meeting. Carried unanimously.

9.3 Recreation Department

9.3.2 PRO Kids Administration Support for Mahone Bay Update

At the September 17, 2019 meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee, staff were directed to look at determining an hourly rate that would cover the cost of processing a PRO Kids application. Ms. Bolivar advised that the recommendation from staff is to charge \$40 per hour.

Moved by Councillor Ernst, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council enter into an Agreement with the Town of Mahone Bay to administer the PRO Kids Program on their behalf with funding from the Town of Mahone Bay to support applications for their residents; and further, that the Town of Mahone Bay pay the Municipality of Lunenburg a rate of \$40 per hour to process applications. Carried unanimously.

9.3.4 Sponsorship Ad Grant – Mahone Bay & Area Lions Club

Ms. Bolivar reviewed the report, “Mahone Bay and Area Lions Sponsorship Ad Grant” (circulated with the Agenda).

Moved by Councillor Carver, seconded by Councillor Whynot that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve the Sponsorship Ad Grant request of the Mahone Bay & Area Lions Club in the amount of \$400 to support their 50 Years of Service Charter Night, being held on November 16, 2019, through a full-page ad in their Charter Night booklet. Carried unanimously.

9.3.3 Sponsorship Ad Grant – Mahone Islands Conservation Association

Councillor Ernst declared a Conflict of Interest for Items 9.3.3 and 9.3.1 as he is on the Board of MICA and Mr. Dumaresq declared a Conflict of Interest for Item 9.3.3 as has a family member associated with MICA, and they removed themselves from the table.

Ms. Bolivar reviewed her report, “Mahone Islands Conservation Association (MICA): Sponsorship Ad Grant” (circulated with the Agenda).

Ms. Bolivar explained that MICA requested \$1,000, but as per the grant criteria, organizations shall only be approved for a maximum of \$500 per year.

Moved by Councillor Garland, seconded by Councillor Nauss that the Policy and Strategy Committee recommends to Council that Municipal Council approve \$500 under the Sponsorship Ad Grant for the Mahone Islands Conservation Association (MICA) to assist them with their Annual Gala Dinner and Auction taking place on Friday, November 8, 2019 at Oak Island Resort and Conference Centre. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Dumaresq returned to the table.

Ms. Bolivar left the meeting.

9.3.1 Designated Community Project Fund

Ms. Payne noted that, at the September 17, 2019 meeting of the Policy & Strategy Committee, a question was raised in regards to Policy MDL-48 “Designated Community Project Fund” and whether or not it should be amended to consider issuing charitable donation receipts for donations of a lesser amount than \$100 as is stated in the policy.

Ms. Payne advised that based on the amount of administration time it takes to process donations, it is recommended that the amount of \$100 or more remain in the policy.

The Committee did not take any action to change the amount.

Councillor Ernst returned to the table.

10. MAYOR’S/DEPUTY MAYOR’S/COUNCILLORS’ MATTERS

10.1 Development of a Wayside Pedestrian/Cyclists’ Park, Indian Point (Councillor Ernst)

Councillor Ernst provided information on a proposed development of a pedestrian/cyclist park in Indian Point. He suggested that the municipally-owned 1340 square foot parcel be established as a rest spot for walkers and cyclists.

The Committee directed staff to take this project forward to the budget process for approval.

10.2 Update on Waste Matters (Councillor Ernst)

Councillor Ernst, Chair of Region 6 Solid Waste Management Committee, provided a summary of the Efficiency & Effectiveness Report (included in the agenda package) which was a province-wide independent study of municipal waste services.

Moved by Councillor Hustvedt, seconded by Councillor Bell that staff be directed to prepare a letter to the Regional Chairs Committee congratulating them for the Efficiency and Effectiveness Report of the Solid Waste and Resource Management System and encourage them to translate some of the statements in their report into recommendations.

It was agreed that prior to preparing the letter, MJSB staff be consulted to get some input from their Technical Staff on possible recommendations.

Motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

11. ADDED ITEMS - NIL

12. IN CAMERA

At 11:33 p.m., it was moved by Mayor Bolivar-Getson, seconded by Councillor Hustvedt that the Policy & Strategy Committee go In Camera to discuss the following item 12.1 “Legal Advice under Section 22(2)(g) of the MGA”.

Policy & Strategy Committee *In Camera* in session.

At 11:53 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Councillor Carver that the Policy & Strategy Committee come out of *In Camera* and return to open session. Carried.

Policy & Strategy Committee in session.

12. NEXT MEETING – November 19, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business at 11:53 a.m., it was moved by Councillor Whynot, seconded by Mayor Bolivar-Getson that the meeting adjourn. Carried.